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FARMERS THREATENED WITH LAND LOSS

33 Houses Destroyed In Jiftlik Valley

Shacks destroyed by Israeli bulldozers in the Jiftlik Valley. In the background, shacks awaiting demolition/SA photo.

Majdi Mfaddi Ahmad, 55, contractor-farmer stands on the ruins of his shack. He now sleeps in the open/SA photo.

Israeli military authorities demolished 33 shacks which shelter Palestinian migrant farmers in the Jiftlik area of the Jordan Valley November 1 on pretext that they were not licensed. Farmers and landowners in the area charge that the authorities are planning to seize the land to build Israeli settlements in the agriculturally rich valley.

At a press conference held on the site of the demolished shacks — which is land owned by the farmers themselves — farmers told reporters Israeli authorities notified them of the decision to demolish their huts on October 25. Wahid al-Masri, a landowner who spoke on behalf of the farmers, said the military governor of Jericho summoned farmers to his office and handed them orders to evacuate and demolish their homes within a week.

He added that the military governor also warned the farmers that the Israeli army will demolish the homes of farmers who refuse to comply and fine each family IS40,000. The demolition order also required the farmers to leave the area and return to their hometowns. Most farmers are from the villages of Tubas and Tammoun, in the Jenin district.

On the morning of November 1, Israeli soldiers led by the Jericho military governor occupied the area, stopped traffic and began demolishing the shacks, al-Masri said. Farmers and their families were forced to sleep in the open. Representatives of the farmers tried to secure building permits for new homes, but the military governor rejected the propsals.

Bassam Daraghmeh, an agricultural engineer representing the Association of Agricultural Engineers in the West Bank said that vegetable farming requires round-the-clock attention. "Irrigating, spraying pesticides and picking must be done in the morning or in the evening," he said. He added that if farmers live far from their fields, crops are likely to be affected.

The Jiftlik valley is regarded as the most vital agricultural area in the West Bank. The area which has about 25,000 dunums is used primarily to grow vegetables, mainly tomatoes, eggplants and cucumbers.

At the end of the press conference, farmers said they were determined to resist the authorities' scheme no matter what the price. Farmer Mohammed Mahmoud Barham was quoted by *Al Sha'ab* daily as saying that the farmers could not comply with the authorities' demand to evacuate the area and return to their hometowns of Tubas and Tammoun — about 40 kilometres away — because this would damage their crops. The farmers also appealed to international public opinion to support them in fighting the arbitrary measures. (Translation, Al Sha'ab, Al Fajr, November 8)

Dheisheh Women, Students Face Settlers

Dozens of women and preparatory school students from Dheisheh held a sit-in November 7 outside the closed main entrance of the refugee camp. The sit-in was to protest the military-ordered sealing of all main camp entrances (see story page 3) and the continued presence of Rabbi Moshe Levinger and a number of Jewish settlers near the camp.

Levinger and the settlers have camped opposite Dheisheh for several days, causing frequent disturbances and harassing camp residents.

During the sit-in, a heated debate between the women and student protesters and Levinger was sparked when Levinger and his Gush Emunim group attempted to stop UNRWA work crews from opening a water canal near the closed entrance. Water and dirt had collected behind the entrance's cement barrier near an UNRWA food outlet used in serving daily lunch to camp children.

Israeli army units rushed to the scene and separated the women and Levinger, forcing the women protesters to go home. Levinger and the settlers remained. Several army units took up positions on housetops and by the main gate.

Camp women held a similar protest two days earlier when members of the Israeli Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit were in the area. The committee explained to Israeli authorities the demands of camp protesters and reached an agreement to remove Levinger and his group from the camp area. Levinger was removed but returned several hours later.

UNRWA work crews began November 6 to construct a barbed-wire fence around the agency's office situated on the highway opposite the camp. The fence is meant to prevent Jewish settlers from trespassing into the premises. The settlers have entered the building on several occasions in the past few weeks.

Levinger and his settlers were seen walking through the streets of Bethlehem and later holding prayer ceremonies near the camp. Camp residents told *Al Fajr* they consider Levinger's actions incitement and they will continue to protest his actions by all means.

Islamic Council Calls for 1-Day Strike for al-Aqsa

The Islamic Higher Council in Jerusalem issued a call November 5 for a one-day general strike Saturday November 10 in the occupied territories to protest the continued presence of Israeli army and police personnel in the sacred al-Aqsa Mosque and in other Islamic holy places.

The declaration included a set of demands calling for all affairs of the Moslem holy places to be in the hands of the Council. Israeli authorities have in the past challenged the Council's authority by allowing Israeli soldiers to enter the holy places and to raise the Israeli flag in the compound. Soldiers often control the gates of the compound and allow cars and tourists to enter at the time of Moslem prayer. The declaration demands soldiers to respect the holiness of the al-Aqsa compound and remain outside the gates, that the Israeli flag be taken down and that the Council's authority be recognised and respected. The Islamic Higher Council is recognised by local and international communities as the legitimate caretaker of Palestinian Moslem holy sites.

In a recent visit to al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Israeli Police Minister Haim Bar Lev met with the head of the Council, *Sheikh* Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami. The minister was told of the problems between the army, police and the Moslem worshippers after which he said he would see about keeping the soldiers outside. Faisal Husseini, a council member told *Al Fajr* that the people of the West Bank have waited long enough for the measures to be implemented. The soldiers, according to Husseini, have continued to enter the holy places, incite worshippers and act in a very abusive manner.

The strike is expected to halt all activity in the West Bank and Gaza, including work in all national institutions and commercial outlets. In reaction to the strike call the Israeli police minister sent a letter to the Higher Council November 6 in which he said, "The Border Police, as part of the State of Israel's police force, is assigned to protect public order... and therefore will not be removed from the Mount (Aqsa compound)... But that the appropriate orders will be given to guarantee proper behaviour."

The West Jerusalem municipality is reported by *The Jerusalem Post* to be 'perplexed' by the call for a strike.

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FOUR ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED

Lebanon Resistance Continues

Four Israeli soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded in a number of attacks against Israeli soldiers November 2 through 8, by nationalist Lebanese resistance. A leader of the Israeli backed civil guards, and his body guard were also killed, and four others wounded in two attacks on November 4 and 6.

The most serious attack occurred in Sidon, November 7. Three armed men attacked an Israeli convoy of two military vehicles as they drove in central Sidon, around noon. According to Lebanese police reports, quoted by foreign reporters in the area, four soldiers were killed and six others were wounded. The reports also said that three of the wounded soldiers were transferred to a field hospital in Sidon, while the others were flown by helicopter to Rambam hospital in Haifa. An Israeli military spokesperson admitted the attack, but claimed that one soldier only was killed and four others wounded. Israeli press reports had frequently pointed that military communiques issued by the Israeli army in Lebanon have often lied about the number of casualties on the Israeli side.

Israeli troops, later, searched the area and found RPG launchers. Later on, the soldiers arrested a resident in Sidon, while he was being treated in Hammour hospital. The man named Mohammed al-Hurr was being treated from wounds sustained during the search of the area. The *Agence France Press* reported that he was transferred to an unknown location.

In another attack on November 4, one Israeli soldier was seriously wounded by small arms fire near Tyre. Israeli military reports which announced the incident said that Lebanese commandos attacked an Israeli military outpost on the outskirts of Tyre injuring the soldier. Also on the same day, four soldiers from the Israeli backed South Lebanese Army (SLA) which has been taking an increasing role in maintaining security in south Lebanon were wounded in an ambush near the town of Nabatiyeh, in central south Lebanon. The soldiers were on patrol in the northern Nabatiyeh region when the attack took place.

On the same afternoon, another patrol from the SLA was attacked by resistance forces with a grenade while on duty in Tyre. *The Jerusalem Post* which reported the attack claimed that there were no casualties in the attack.

On November 6, the civil guard, which was established, trained and armed by Israel after the invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, received a serious blow when a regional commander in the Tibnit area was shot and killed in his hometown of Tibnit. The commander Mohammed Dabacheh and his bodyguard were driving in the town when they came under attack from close range. The two men died immediately. The civil guard is being prepared by Israel alongside the South Lebanese Army to take control of south Lebanon after the Israeli withdrawal from the region.

Biram, Iqrit Residents Plan March to Destroyed Homes

Members of *al-Awdeh* (Return) movement are planning a march to their destroyed villages of Biram and Iqrit November 17.

Said Dakour, spokesman for the group and originally from the Upper Galilee village of Biram, told *Al Fajr* he expects at least 1000 people to join in the march.

Al Awdeh movement sent invitations to various Israeli Knesset factions, peace parties and concerned individuals. Members of the media have also been invited to cover the event which commemorates the Palestinian villagers' right to return to their destroyed villages.

According to Dakour, a number of members of Knesset are expected to deliver speeches at the end of the rally. Other speakers include Fathers Elias Shakour and Yousef Sousan, both from the Melekite Church.

Marchers will begin the demonstration at the Sa'sa intersection in Upper Galilee above Nahariya and will march to the ruins of the village of Biram.

The residents of Biram and Iqrit were evacuated by the Israeli army in 1951 for two weeks for "army manoeuvers." They have never been allowed to return and their villages were destroyed by the Israeli army. Residents of the predominately Christian Arab villages have received numerous court guarantees and government promises over the years to allow their return. The Israeli army refused to allow residents to return despite at least two Israeli High Court decisions in the villagers' favour. In 1953 Israeli planes and artillery destroyed the villages moments before the residents had planned to return to them. Since then villagers have been allowed to rebuild the town Church and visit only on an occasional basis.

In 1977 Israeli Prime Minister Begin made an election promise to permit the villagers to return home but he later reneged on his promise.

Halhoul Council Votes To Depose Mayor Milhem

In a controversial move seven members of Halhoul municipal council took a unilateral and unexplained decision October 27 against elected Mayor Mohammed Milhem deported by Israeli authorities in 1980, demoting him to the status of regular council member, and appointing in his stead Acting Mayor Hijazi Madiyeh. The move was opposed by one council member, Mohammed Misha'l.

In an interview with Jordan radio, Milhem denounced the decision by the Halhoul council, and said it gives legitimacy to the Israeli decision to deport him, which was opposed by UN resolutions. Milhem said Jordanian government officials and PLO officials likewise denounced the decision and upheld his position as elected mayor.

Council members have refused to comment on reasons for their decision, except to deny an Israel TV report November 4 that the decision was due to rumours of Milhem taking money from funds intended for the town. In a November 6 statement published in the local press the council called the embezzlement charge "untrue."

West Bank legal experts pointed out that Jordanian law Number 29, Clause 34 (1) gives authority only to the cabinet to remove a mayor and then only on recommendation of the interior minister. Furthermore, experts say that when a mayor is removed from office the entire council is automatically dissolved.

Council member Abdel Muhsen Attrash told *Al Fajr* the council did not consult legal experts before taking the decision. "But if the decision is illegal, then we will retract it," he said.

Many Halhoul residents and a number of Palestinian national personalities objected to the controversial decision. One Halhoul resident, who refused to be identified, said that "suspicious elements" are behind the council's decision. Hebron Deputy Mayor Mustafa Natshe, who was ousted from his position by military authorities in 1983, called the decision "a bad one." He said that "Milhem has served the Palestinian cause with diligence and honesty, and he has served Halhoul's interests with trustworthiness." Natshe added that the decision "unfairly harms one of Palestine's best personalities."

Popularly elected mayor of Ramallah Karim Khalaf, deposed by military authorities in 1982, denounced the decision and called on the Halhoul municipal council to "try and solve their differences in an objective way."

Halhoul Mayor Mohammed Milhem along with Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmeh and Hebron *Qadi* Rajab Tamimi were summarily deported to Jordan in 1980 in the aftermath of the Dhaboiya operation in which six Israeli settlers were killed.

Milhem and Qawasmeh's continued efforts to return home have been blocked by Israeli authorities. Israel ignored a UN resolution calling for the return of the deported mayors.

Mayors Milhem and Qawasmeh have been outspoken representatives of the Palestinian cause. They toured many countries of the world and met with top world leaders including French President Francois Mitterand, and the British and US Secretaries of State.

Milhem, who was an extremely popular mayor, was also instrumental in obtaining twin-city status for Halhoul with Kuwait city and is responsible for arranging the funding of a number of Halhoul projects.

Al Mithaq Reports Rafah Funds Scandal

Money earmarked for Palestinian institutions in the Gaza Strip was improperly distributed to undeserving individuals, claimed a local newspaper November 5.

Al Mithaq daily reprinted a copy of a letter issued by PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Office for the Occupied Territories Hamad Abu Sitteh in Amman June 20 and addressed to the Arab Bank. The letter asked for the release of JD11,000 to Rafah resident Jamal Abd al-Jawwad on behalf of the Rafah Youth Centre. *Al Mithaq* reported that Abd al-Jawwad is not authorised by the centre to receive funds. The PLO office in Amman denied that any money was taken.

Official representatives of the Rafah club told *Al Fajr* that they were surprised by the information since their club has no direct relations with anybody outside the occupied territories.

The Rafah Youth Centre was been closed by military order for 18 months.

Colleges and Universities Face Military Closures, Student Strikes

A number of West Bank institutes of higher learning continue to be hampered by student and administration disputes as well as military interference. Some institution conflicts have been resolved in the past few weeks while new ones have developed. The military has either closed or threatened other institutions with closure.

Students and administrations at Bir Zeit University and the Ibrahimiya Community College have reconciled, but new problems have developed at the Hebron University. Najah University and al-Tireh Community College for Women are closed due to occupation-related conflicts.

Arab College of Nursing

The most pressing problem continues to be at the al-Bireh – based Arab College of Nursing. The board of trustees at the college insist that any solution to the problem will not be reached until the board's latest decision to close the college is first enforced. The latest round of mediation efforts by the Council of Higher Education failed November 7. Hussein Qiq of the Council of Higher Education told *Al Fajr* the nursing college's students refuse all suggestions put forth by the CHE unless they receive them in writing. The students also demand a written guarantee that no student will be punished. Students striking in the college dormitories because they refuse to accept the board's decision of closure are cleaning and doing other chores on their own since the college's employees and workers were sent home by order of the administration a week ago.

Hebron University

In Hebron student and administration conflicts have also resulted in a decision by the Hebron University board of trustees to close the university. The board says the closure decision was made after the university's

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4 More Years of Reagan

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington, DC Correspondent

Once again the American people have granted Ronald Reagan four more years in the White House. Reagan's re-election, winning 525 electoral votes to 13 for Mondale, the Democrat, is the greatest such victory for any American president in American history. Roosevelt and Johnson came close to this but never reached 525.

In terms of popular vote, Reagan won 59 percent to 41 percent for Mondale. Reagan's victory was great, winning all but Mondale's own state of Minnesota and the District of Columbia, but it is still less than what the Republican Party and Reagan had hoped for. Although Reagan personally was the favourite of the American voters, his party and his programme were not. The victory is being seen as a personal one for Reagan because of his charismatic television image. But both Reagan and his party would have rather received a lesser victory at the presidential level and more of one in Congress.

In order to push his programme through Congress Reagan needed to win more seats in the House of Representatives. His gain there is estimated

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Bethlehem Press Office Destroyed by Arson

The Bethlehem Press Office was gutted in a fire November 2 set by unknown arsonists. More than JD7000 worth of equipment was lost in the fire.

The fire was discovered around 9:30 pm, shortly after it started. Neighbours of the press office noticed flames through the windows on the second floor of the building where the office is located and called the police and local fire brigade. Jawdat Mana'a, co-owner of the press office, was summoned to the scene by friends half an hour later and said that the fire brigade was still fighting the blaze.

The heavy steel outer door had been forced open by a wedge or crowbar. Inside, a tin container which apparently had held flammable liquid, used to start the fire, was lying on the floor. The inner doors had also been forced open.

Hassan Abd al-Jawwad, Mana'a's partner, said that all furniture and equipment were burned beyond use, including a new JD2,000 photocopying machine and a typewriter. "The arsonists even took out an electric heater from a closet and put it in the middle of the fire," Mana'a said. He pointed out that if the fire had burned much longer, it could have caused the entire building to blaze. The press office owners blamed "Israeli collaborators" for the fire. They say they had been repeatedly threatened by unknown persons. Ten days ago, an unidentified caller who said his name was Captain Rafi from the Israeli secret police threatened to "send soldiers after them if they continued to write articles against the village leagues."

Jawdat Mana' (left) and Hassan Abdel Jawwad in arsoned office

Journalists Mana'a and Abd al-Jawwad said they were determined to rebuild the office "better than it was before." Two days after the incident, volunteers from various parts of the Bethlehem area were working renovating the office.

The arson was widely condemned by various institutions, including the Arab Journalists Association which issued a statement condemning the attack.

In Bethlehem, several national institutions issued statements condemning the incident.

The Bethlehem Press Office opened in 1980 and specialised in covering news of the Bethlehem region, particularly Dheisheh camp, for distribution to local Palestinian, Israeli and foreign journalists. The office of five employees was often described as the most active and reliable local reporting office in the West Bank.

The press office was ordered closed by Israeli military authorities for four months in April 1983 after the Israeli soldiers raided it and confiscated copies of the Jerusalem-based *Al Sha'ab* newspaper, which at the time was not permitted distribution in the West Bank.

Dheisheh Residents Petition High Court

Fourteen residents of Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem petitioned the Israeli High Court November 6 demanding the camp's entrances be reopened and collective punishment and provocations against the camp be stopped. Israeli authorities closed the last remaining entrance to the camp on the Hebron-Jerusalem road November 1. The only entrance which remains open to Dheisheh's 10,000 residents is a back footpath on the mountain behind the camp.

According to the petition, authorities have closed entrances which the High Court had demanded be reopened earlier this year. The petition was submitted by advocate Felicia Langer.

These actions include imposition of frequent curfews, closure of camp entrances and permission for Israeli settlers and army units to roam freely in the camp.

The petition maintained that grievances of camp residents resulting from military actions have persisted for several years. Although the residents petitioned the court in June 1983 and a military officer was appointed to study the military actions against the residents, the conditions have remained the same.

The petition also maintained that the military actions are meant to create an atmosphere of terror in the refugee camp which would result in mass emigration of its Palestinian residents. The military actions, the petition concluded, constitute a violation of international laws and human rights regulations.

Tawil Blames Eban for Travel Ban

Israeli military authorities forbade Palestinian journalist Raymonda Tawil from leaving the occupied territories November 5. Tawil had planned to travel to Italy November 6.

The Jerusalem Post quoted a senior Israeli defence ministry source as saying that Tawil was barred from travelling for unspecified security reasons and for "the accumulation of her activities which are hostile to the state." Israeli authorities have in the past forbidden several Palestinian personalities from travelling abroad for the same vague reasons.

Tawil claims however that her travel ban is related to a confrontation she had in a recent political debate with Israeli Knesset member Abba Eban in a French TV programme. The programme, filmed in East Jerusalem, concerned the UN decision to partition Palestine on November 29, 1947. Eban, who is chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, and a former foreign minister, is reported to have left the recording studio angrily before the debate ended. Tawil told *Al Fajr* the Israeli decision was meant as punishment because of her firm stand on the Palestinian issue during the debate and because she persistently defended the just rights of the Palestinian people and the legitimacy of the PLO leadership.

Tawil's advocate Amnon Zakhronni told *Al Fajr* that Israeli authorities told him Tawil's previous *de facto* travel ban had been lifted two weeks ago but they apparently changed their minds.

Military Answers Students' Complaints By Suspending Ibn Sina Nursing College

The Israeli health officer in the West Bank military government ordered the closure of Ibn Sina nursing college November 3 for one week. The closure of the Ramallah college immediately followed students' presentation of a list of complaints to college administration.

The student body of 60 complain of unfair treatment by the administration, dormitories and lecture halls with open sewage pipes and unpaid transportation costs at this government-supervised college. The college's administration, however, claims that the closure was necessary in order to install a heating system in the student dormitories. The students, on the other hand, told *Al Fajr* that the closure was meant as "punishment" and that the administration "refused to discuss our complaints, threatened us with dismissal and sent us home for a week." The three-year college was begun in 1971 by the Israeli military government and is funded by the United Nations Development Program.

Hanna Suleiman, director of Ibn Sina, told *Al Fajr* that "the decision to give the students a seven day holiday was for technical reasons" and that "we made an agreement with the student body to close the college for a week in order to put in a new heating system in the college's dormitories." The director later admitted however that there are serious problems between the administration and student body and that "the decision to close the college for one week was made by Yitzhak Safer, the Israeli health officer of the military government of the West Bank." He added that "the students have to abide by our rules. Any student who disagrees may as well stay home for good."

The students see the closure as a final warning to the students, some of whom may not be allowed to return to the college after the seven-day closure. A student representative said, "Several students were warned not to get involved in what the administration called their business or else face dismissal." He added, "Our demands are very reasonable and easy to implement. The administration, however, assumes we only mean to confront it and disturb the course of studies, so it refused to talk to us outright."

Students, who are sent for practical training at several Arab hospitals in the West Bank, also complain about unpaid transportation expenses. Transportation is normally handled by the college but, according to the students, the college stopped paying several months ago without explanation. Suleiman insisted that "since the college pays most student expenses which include accommodation, food and books, it is not much to ask them to pay their own transportation."

The students argue that most of them come from poor refugee families, and cannot afford the high cost of transportation, especially if they have to commute to hospitals in far away towns such as Beit Jala or Bethlehem. They also claim that their hospital training hours are often double the assigned time and late night shifts when transportation back to school is impossible. Women students are especially worried about the extension of work hours. The students demand that transportation expenses be paid and that their training hours be regulated.

In addition to these problems students at Ibn Sina say the attitude of the administration toward them is "insulting and threatening." "They threaten us with physical abuse and reprimands and call us names," said one. The students demand that they be treated better and included this demand in the letter they presented to the college's administration.

The director of the college denied any maltreatment of students and called them "troublemakers." He also repeated that "Students who do not like the way we run Ibn Sina ought to stay home and not return when the week is over."

Double-Taxed Jewelers End Strike in Nablus

Nablus jewelers and Israeli tax officials reached a compromise decision November 5 ending a 10-day jewelers' strike. Local jewelers struck October 25 in a dispute over official demands that they pay both tax on their profit and a 15 percent value-added tax (VAT) on their sales. Tax officials were also demanding the jewelers keep daily accounts.

The Nablus chamber of commerce interceded with Israeli authorities to obtain the compromise. Hikmat Ya'ish, a Nablus goldsmith and spokesman for the jewelers, told *Al Fajr* Israeli tax officials agreed to postpone for one year the question of conducting an inventory of goods to determine their taxable status. Jewelers will however have to keep daily accounts and pay the 15 percent VAT on daily sales.

Another Nablus jeweler Rashid Mamdouh Masri said the agreement with the tax officials was a "victory for the merchants." He said that if the tax official had had their way, many jewelers would have gone broke.

Masri told *Al Fajr* the jewelers tried every possible way to oppose the new taxes. "Our profit is only from our craftsmanship," he said. Masri explained that jewelers buy imported gold that is already expensive because of high customs taxes.

During their 10-day strike, a number of Nablus jewelers turned their shops into vegetable and fruit stores in order to make up for lost revenues.

International law dictates that military occupiers are not empowered to levy new taxes on occupied populations.

Israeli Price Freeze Imposed on West Bank, Gaza

The Israeli government, the Israeli Labour Federation (Histadrut) and Israeli industry agreed to a price freeze on many goods and services for three months beginning November 3. Agricultural products, with few exceptions, are excluded from the freeze. The decision, which is also being forced on the occupied territories created confusion in Israeli and Arab markets.

Ibrahim Far, head of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce, complained to *Al Fajr* that the price freeze decision "has been made without consulting" the Palestinian sector.

The price freeze which will affect all goods, including subsidised basic foods and other commodities, is the government's most recent attempt to control the spiraling inflation projected to hit the 1000 percent mark by the end of this year. **The agreement also means that wage earners paid in salaries in shekels will face a 25 percent depreciation in their wages as employers refuse to pay wage increases based on erosion in workers' salaries and only pay cost-of-living increments. This issue is still under review by employers and the Histadrut, while the government tries to save its package deal. The deal almost collapsed when officials at the ministry of trade and industry refused to include subsidised commodities in the price freeze. However, persistence from Yisrael Kessar, head of the Histadrut, forced the government to include all goods with the exception of agricultural products in the package deal.** Only potatoes, carrots, and onions were included, according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

Far criticised the package deal as a "temporary thing that will not have any benefits." He said local traders who deal with the Jordanian dinar will be hard hit. The dinar is an official hard currency in the occupied territories and widely used. The deal means that tenants can pay the shekel equivalent of the dinar rent calculated at the current rate of exchange and rent becomes fixed. The market exchange rate is also higher than the official rate and all deals are usually done in the market rate.

Observers, however, predict that the package deal will not be very effective. The Israeli press quoted Israeli shopkeepers as saying that if the price of commodities go up in dollar value they will refuse to sell their goods in shekels based on the rate of the dollar at the time the price freeze went into effect. **This means shopkeepers will either stop selling or sell on the black market.**

***The Jerusalem Post* November 5 quoted representatives of Israeli manufacturers as saying that "hardest hit will be the factories that buy raw materials abroad... The prices of these raw materials will continue to go up according to the exchange rate while the prices of the local products remain fixed in shekels."**

Some large Israeli manufacturing companies were quoted saying that they will have to cut down on production in order to reduce losses.

Soldier Remanded for Attack on Hebron Bus

David Ben-Shimol, an 18-year-old soldier, was arrested November 2 on suspicion of firing an anti-tank rocket at a Jerusalem to Hebron bus October 28. A 20-year-old Palestinian from Sa'ir died and 11 others were wounded in the terrorist attack. Three other soldiers were arrested on suspicion of prior knowledge of the attack.

Ben-Shimol, who confessed in court to the attack, was remanded for 15 days in Jerusalem magistrates court November 4. One of the other three soldiers was remanded until November 9. The other two were released. The Israeli soldier had been absent without leave from the Golani Brigade, an elite armed unit. He also told police he was responsible for a grenade attack on an Arab cafe in Jerusalem's Old City several weeks ago.

Police linked Ben-Shimol to the rocket attack partly through information that a light anti-tank (LAW) weapon like the one used in the attack had been missing from the soldier's unit. Police also linked the suspect to the crime through fingerprint and handwriting analyses made from a note left behind at the scene of the attack. In the note, Ben-Shimol claimed the attack was in revenge for the recent murders of two Israeli youth near the Cremisan Monastery in Beit Jala. A mentally ill Dheisheh refugee camp resident has been charged with the slayings.

Southern District Police Commander Avraham Turgeman said Ben-Shimol's motives for the attack were "emotional, nationalistic and Jewish, in light of the terror attacks on Jews and in light of the recent murders near the Cremisan Monastery." Police say they can prove Ben-Shimol acted alone.

In court Ben-Shimol, who refused counsel, said he "acted out of sorrow" and that "innocent Jews are being killed indiscriminately, and I can't stand it any longer." The suspect's sister, however, told the court that this wasn't her brother speaking. "Somebody put those words into his mouth. We never heard him talk about things like that in the past."

Police are currently investigating the possibility that Ben-Shimol was urged by someone else to carry out the two anti-Arab attacks. Ben-Shimol, who was a small-time police informer, had ties to the underworld through his petty criminal activity. He became a police informant in exchange for not being charged with his earlier crimes such as setting fire to a neighbourhood store.

According to a news feature in *The Jerusalem Post* November 6, senior police officials have been studying what they see as a difference between the Jewish terror underground and other anti-Arab attackers. Police psychologists say that unlike the political ideological motives behind the terrorism of the Jewish underground, these lone individuals who perpetrate anti-Arab attacks are all from poor neighbourhoods and suffer from family disintegration and poverty.

The Hebrew daily *Hadashot* suggested in an article November 5 that such individual acts of terrorism are encouraged by someone else who either fills the individual with anti-Arab propaganda or offers him money. The paper reported: **"People who know what's going on in the Jewish underworld have claimed again and again 'These guys are small-time criminals and aren't the type to carry out large-scale acts. Someone is standing behind them and directing them. By themselves they could have never arrived at such ideas. There is someone who is going around in the neighbourhood who is succeeding in recruiting these young guys for terror activities.'"**

Police are investigating reports that the ultra-racist group Kach led by MK Rabbi Meir Kahane has offered money to anyone willing to carry out such anti-Arab attacks. Kach, after praising Ben-Shimol for his terrorist action, offered him an honourary membership in the group and are underwriting his defense.

Rabin Rejects PLP Requests for 'Good Gestures' to West Bank

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with both Knesset members of the Progressive List for Peace (PLP) November 5 and rejected all of their requests concerning issues in the occupied territories.

MK Mohammed Mi'ari and Mattiyahu Peled had asked for the early reopening of Najah University and permission for Palestine National Council members from the occupied territories to attend the next PNC session. West Bank military coordinator Shlomo Goren also attended the meeting. Mi'ari told *Al Fajr* Rabin and Goren alleged that a book exhibited at the university had led to the injury of four soldiers by a petrol bomb in Nablus. According to Goren, the youths learned how to make the petrol bomb from reading the book. Goren also alleged, for the first time, that the students had opened offices for the PLO at Najah University.

Mi'ari and Peled both scoffed at these reasons. Peled said he told the defence minister that the exhibited book is on sale at local kiosks.

Peled told Rabin that by allowing the PNC members to attend the meeting they would be able to influence elements in the PLO towards accelerating the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. Rabin told them he considered the PLO a "terrorist organisation" and that he would not allow anyone to participate in its meetings.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 236, November 9, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censors 11
Number of articles mutilated beyond use 1
Number of articles partially censored but used 3
Number of articles passed 7

Knesset Moves to Restrict Racism by MKs

A special Knesset committee, recently charged with discussing anti-racist legislation, gave speaker Shlomo Hillel November 6 the right to reject racist draft legislation, strike racist utterances from the Knesset protocol and expel a member from the chamber for making racist remarks.

The Knesset Committee met with the Israeli legal advisor this week to review the legality of restricting racist MK Meir Kahane's movements. The advisor gave his opinion that freedom of movement does not mean a person is free to disregard the law. The advisor indicated Kahane had wantonly endangered human life in his August attempt to enter the Arab village Um al-Fahm.

Kahane's actions were compared to a hypothetical situation in which the leaders of the League Against Religious Coercion attempted to drive their cars through Mea Shearim (an ultra-orthodox Jewish neighbourhood in Jerusalem) on the Sabbath. Police, said the advisor, would surely prevent the League from doing so, for such an act endangers human life.

The legal advisor told the Knesset committee the police should act to restrict Kahane's movements in similar cases in the future. The committee is now looking into whether or not to curtail Kahane's parliamentary immunity.

Kahane, in his response to the committee decision reported by *The Jerusalem Post* November 7, said the late US Senator Joe McCarthy's actions "pale by comparison with what Hillel is doing in his blind hatred of Kahane."

4 More Years

continued from page 2

at only 15 seats, far short of what is required to have his programme fully supported. In the Senate the Republicans lost two seats: that of Charles Percy of Illinois and that of Roger Jepsen of Iowa. Percy, former chairperson of the powerful Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, was seen as a somewhat reluctant friend of the Arabs. He had once met with Yasir Arafat. His loss is attributed to Jewish voter anger over his support of the sale of AWACs planes to Saudi Arabia and to black voters who connected him with Reagan's economic policies. Republicans will still control the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee because they maintain the majority.

Universities

continued from page 2

student body representative cursed the name of God in front of the board members.

Another problem that has developed in Hebron deals with the faculty and employee's union. The administration insists that it is not the right time for such a union. Employees and faculty are demanding a union after two faculty members were arbitrarily fired.

Tireh Women's College

The administration of UNRWA's al-Tireh college closed the women's training centre November 4 for one week. UNRWA officials say the voluntary closure came after the military threatened to close the college for a much longer period. The military authorities made the closure threats after students demonstrated on the occasion of Balfour Day November 2. A similar pre-emptive closure by UNRWA occurred last December.

Najah University in Nablus remains closed in compliance with a military order July 30 to close the university for four months. Ibn Sina nursing college in Ramallah was closed one week by an Israeli military officer in charge of health institutions.

The Dawn
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AL FAJR – Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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No Soldiers Best Protection

The Islamic Higher Council in Jerusalem issued a call November 5 for a one-day general strike November 10 to protest the continued presence of Israeli army and police personnel in al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The fear expressed by Moslems for the holy place is justified. It is based on Israeli official and unofficial practices and intentions since the 1967 occupation towards one of the holiest of Islamic shrines.

Attempts to tear apart the sacred site did not stop during the last 17 years. Arson and shooting at worshippers while performing their prayers were the most significant attempts which were described by Israeli officials as being committed by "fanatics" or "insane" individuals. Even Meir Kahane's (Israeli Knesset member) most official claims and intentions to destroy al-Aqsa and build the third temple on the site of al-Aqsa were taken deliberately lightly on the Israeli official level. Meanwhile Israeli police and border guards are posted in the sacred place with the main duty of stopping Moslems in particular from entering, especially to thwart any popular demonstrations or anti-Israeli protest action.

However, the recent discovery of Jewish terror groups and the unmasking of more terrorists among Israeli army personnel prove that Israeli official and unofficial intentions to destroy al-Aqsa Mosque are made even more possible by the "protective presence" of Israeli police and border guards.

It is most legitimate that the Islamic Higher Council demand the removal of the Israeli army from the compound and have Moslems themselves protect their own holy site. However, the total protection of places as well as people can only be provided with the removal of the constant threatening factor: the Israeli occupation of the holy site, the holy city and the Palestinian land.

AL FAJR – Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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Inspecting an Israeli armoured personnel carrier destroyed by a mine in Lebanon: *"Israel's normal attack configuration was such that they were at a significant disadvantage with regard to the defendees: the PLO and the Syrian army."*

US Major Says Israel Not Up to Par In Lebanon War

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington, DC Corresdpondent

"The price Israel paid, in terms of the dead and wounded, for victory in Lebanon was high." This is the view US Army Reserve Major Richard A. Gabriel, published in the *Military Review Magazine* expressed in his article "Lessons of War: The IDF in Lebanon," in which he analyses the performance of the Israeli army in the 1982 war against the PLO and in their short confrontation with the Syrian army. The conclusion reached by the major, who teaches political science at St. Anselm College in New York State, is that the Israelis performed below what was expected of them.

Major Gabriel's article, part of a book recently published under the title *Operation Peace for Galilee: The Israeli-PLO War in Lebanon*, analyses the army's performance from all relevant aspects, comparing it with previous Israeli wars and with other armies' wars in terms of casualties. A theme repeated all through the article is that this war was different from previous Israeli wars in terms of climate; terrain and organisation of their PLO enemy, its allies and the Syrian army. "It appears clear," Gabriel wrote, "that the Israeli army in Lebanon was only prepared to fight the last war," (i.e., 1973 war) and thus not adequately ready to fight in the Lebanon invasion of 1982.

Israeli field commanders were not clear on the overall tactical plan of the war although, Gabriel wrote, Sharon relayed the impression that it was all very clear, to him. The army was affected by "lack of experience" with the nature of the Lebanese terrain and the "configuration of [its] forces." The type of fighting Israel faced in Lebanon was new both because of terrain and the built-up areas of engagement.

The Israeli army is used to fighting in wide open terrain where tank formations can be very effective; in Lebanon, this was impossible thus causing them "costly ambushes and losses." Israel's normal attack configuration was such that they were "at a significant disadvantage" with regard to the defendees: PLO and the Syrian army.

The army's inexperience with fighting in Lebanon, slowed their advance into their targets, causing "a clear failure to kill or capture most" of the PLO fighters. When the Israeli army was incapable of developing tactical solutions to this unexpected difficulty, they tended, the major wrote, to revert to air strikes. The switching of field commanders, as many as four in less than 30 km around Damour, contributed to weaknesses in the units. Their commanders' conventional military thinking was less than effective in fighting guerrilla forces. Tactics of concentrated bombings in substitute for conventional fighting "had very little success against the PLO."

In their campaign, the Israelis used 1240 tanks; among them were, for the first time, 300 *Merkava*, Israeli-built tanks. Gabriel says that the *Merkava*, a good tank, had no secondary explosions as a result of ammunitions it carried because of secured ammunition storage. In comparison to the M60s and centurions, other tanks used by the Israeli army, the *Merkava* is described as superb in general and in protecting its 10-member crew from fire. Israel, the author believes, lost at least 130 tanks, 40 of which were total wrecks; but it destroyed three times that many on the other side. The three-to-one tank loss ratio in favour of Israel, Gabriel argues, is well below the ratio of the 1973 war and is less than expected, considering Israel's sophisticated weaponry.

Major Gabriel described instances of the war due to confusion and lack of coordination. Israeli units fought each other causing casualties in life and weaponry. He refers to one incident around the crossroads of Ain Katina near Jezzine where two battalions of one brigade approached the crossroads from different directions and "thinking each other to be the enemy, they fought a pitched battle for three hours inflicting casualties on both sides". The estimates from this battle are at least six tanks destroyed with a number of soldiers killed and wounded. Another incident which he says produced casualties occured when a lead battalion ran directly into a Syrian ambush losing seven tanks, abandoning and losing 26 men. He also refers to another ambush around Ain Zhalta with Israel losing both in equipment and lives. The Israelis used tanks as they did in previous wars, only that the terrain in Lebanon was unfit for such use. The decision was based on not risking their infantry and losing men. This, he says, is while "the Syrians used infantry quite properly" for the same terrain.

In the area of medical care, Major Gabriel argued, the Israeli army medical staff functioned properly with the most emphasis on saving lives. This manifested itself in treating most of the wounded right on the battlefield in a specified Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) rather than airlifting them to field hospitals. Eighty-two percent of the casualties were airlifted from the medical platoon.

Forty percent of the wounded on the western front facing PLO fighters, Major Gabriel was told, were head and neck wounds and thus

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AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

Norwegian Oil Up For Grabs

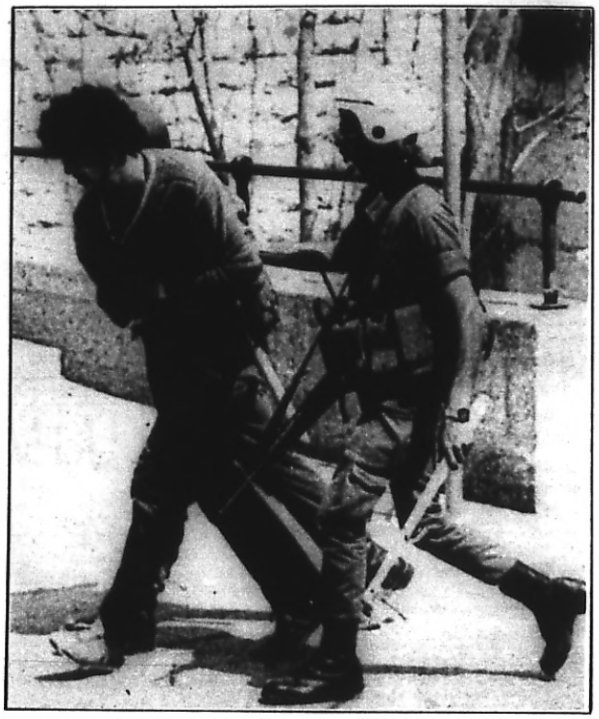
Letter to the Editor:

Allow me to correct a small mis concept on Norwegian oil policy, appearing in the article by Bishara Bahbah "Israel and the Need for Secure Oil Suppliers" *Al Fajr*, September 28, 1984: "... Norway became over the past year the third country and the first European country to publicly sell oil to Israel. This change in Norwegian policy was primarily attributed to the personal efforts of Norway's minister of energy..."

There is a main principle in Norwegian oil policy that selling of oil of Norwegian production is on a regular commercial basis by the companies who have rights on the Norwegian continental shelf. There is one exception from this: the oil companies have been informed by the government as a general rule that Norway does not sell oil to South Africa.

Norwegian authorities have thus in no way been involved in the negotiations on the contract concerning the sale of 500,000 tons of oil to Israel last year, and Norwegian policy in the question on whom to sell oil to has not changed.

Yours sincerely,
Elbjorg Arnesen
Attache
Royal Nowegian Embassy
Tel Aviv



See No Evil, Speak No Evil

by Shulamit Hareven

Shai lives in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Like all Jerusalemites, he looks forward to the awesome silence that descends over the city every Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Shai appreciates this day and regularly fasts out of a kind of inner obligation.

As the last Yom Kippur was drawing to a close, he went out to take his dog for a walk. From here on, I'll let Shai tell the story.

"I was walking in the direction of Zion Gate. I saw two kids coming around the corner of Habad St. They must have been 13 or 14; I figured they were probably Arabs from the village of Silwan taking a shortcut home. Two armed border policemen were making their way toward them and they met up at the passage.

"The policemen demanded the boys show them their IDs; their tone was pretty menacing and I saw that both youngsters were frightened. The two policemen appeared to be looking for trouble. One of them turned to me and said: 'What are you staring at?' I replied that I was waiting for my dog. The taller one seemed more threatening than his partner; the shorter fellow acted as a sort of look out for the other guy. Anyway, I thought that everything would blow over. But after checking the kids' IDs, they carried out a body search, in the course of which they found a pocketknife on one of them."

At this point I would like to interject. There is no law in the State of Israel against carrying a pocketknife. Every self-respecting 13-year-old has his own pocketknife and the more blades and openers it has the better. But it seems that adolescent Arab boys are denied the right that children all over the world enjoy, namely, the right to own a pocketknife.

Let's go out on a limb and suppose that he intended to use his pocketknife for some mischief. In such a case, an admonishment would have been in order; the policemen could even have confiscated his knife, taken the boy in for questioning and given him a warning. The law gives them ample room to maneouvre if that had been their intention. But the law does not give them the right to do what they did.

"The taller policeman," said Shai, "told the boy with the pocketknife to come with him. He told other kid to scram and he really hot-tailed it out of there. The policemen began walking up the hill with the boy between them. He didn't resist or try to escape — he simply went along with them. He was about half the size of the larger policeman, and he was frightened and bewildered. And then, about 20 or 30 metres up the hill, they took hold of him and one of the policemen grinded his elbow into the boy's chest. The boy let out a scream and I yelled: 'You can't do things like that!' They waved me away and continued in the direction of Zion Gate. A few seconds later I heard horrible screams and I ran in the direction of the Gate. When I got there I saw the boy doubled up in pain, holding his hands over his face and unable to move. Two women — apparently new immigrants from the United States — were standing beside the policemen, terror-stricken by the sight of them beating the boy with their rifle butts. The women began to scream as the policemen beat him on his face and groin. In the midst of the altercation which ensued the boy managed to escape from the police and make his way back to the village.

"New immigrants from the United States," said Sahi, "are not always all that familiar with the function of the border police. But they can always identify an Israeli police uniform. They may not speak fluent Hebrew but they do know that children should not be beaten with rifle butts. And that such an incident should occur so close to the Western Wall on the holiest day of the year was too much for them to bear. They knew what police brutality was when they saw it and they hd not immigrated to Israel to witness such scenes. They screamed at the policemen, almost accusing them of having sullied their reasons for having immigrated to Israel.

"I also asked the policemen for their particulars. I said that I wanted to lodge a complaint. But they refused to give me their names or badge numbers. The shorter one said: 'You better get the hell out of here. You didn't see a bloody thing, so shut up!' I persisted and asked them for the name of their station. I asked if they were attached to the Kisheleh Station and they said: 'Yes — we're from Kisheleh.' Later I found out they had lied.

The women also refused to give up. They said they would follow them all night until they found out which police station was theirs. In the meantime a crowd had gathered around us, all of them wearing skullcaps. They were either on their way to pray at the Wall or had just come from there. And it didn't take long before they began to air their views. 'How long have you been in this country? Listen, what do you know about what's going on here? You probably didn't do your army service, did you? Now don't play Mr. Know-it-all! You probably weaseled your way out of having to go to the army, eh? People like you cause terrorism. The Arabs should be thankful we let them walk around freely. When it comes down to it, they should all be killed!'"

These people were either on their way to pray at the Wall or were on their way back. A few minutes earlier they had been repenting for their sins and beseeching All Merciful God to take pity on them. But the brutal beating of a child was another matter. As regards Shai's army service, he had done his stint all right. In the airforce... But actually, that's an idiotic way of looking at it, for even if he had been a draft dodger, he would have still been in the right. And yet, it's interesting to note who does the insulting and who is insulted in the state of Israel. But back to Shai.

"In the meantime the boy had returned with his father and a few other people, who might have been older brothers. The other boy must have run back to the village after the police had let him go. The boy who had been beaten — whose name was Subhi — was in pretty bad shape. He had a black eye that was all puffed up and he could barely raise his eyelid on account of the swelling. He was limping as a result of having been hit in the groin.

"The Arabs should be thankful we let them walk around freely. When it comes down to it, they should all be killed."

We began walking to the Kisheleh Police Station but we couldn't find the two policemen. Subhi's father was too scared to lodge a complaint. He said it wasn't worth the whole mess and that we should forget about it and go home. The young men didn't accept the older man's reasoning, but in the end they gave in and after we exchanged names

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PLAY WINN SCRABBLE?

The Jerusalem YMCA has always been a favorite centre for Palestinian 'jocks,' those who pride the size and dexterity of their arm and leg muscles. But what about bored city-dwellers who want more cerebral activities? The Y's Social and Cultural Department is trying to revitalize the scene, as Maher Abukhater describes.

Scrabble players at the YMCA concentrate on tournament games/AO photo

For several years now a group of 'regulars' meet at the East Jerusalem YMCA and play — Scrabble. In 1970 the group held its first tournament but not until 1979 was a second tournament held. Four years later, in November of last year, the Scrabble addicts decided to begin a club at the YMCA.

The Scrabble Club is only one non-sport activity in the YMCA sponsored by the Social and Cultural Department. The YMCA had long concentrated on sports. But by the late 1960s, some members began thinking of establishing a social activities department. The result was the Social and Cultural Department, of which the Youth Club was the most active. The Youth Club, however, collapsed less than five years after its establishment when one of its major projects, an exhibit of Palestinian culture which had been in the planning for several months and intended as a major West Bank project, was called off only weeks before its scheduled opening. The cancellation of the exhibit was mainly due to fears of the YMCA management over possible Israeli interference.

With the demise of the Youth Club, social activities at the YMCA were limited to lectures, formal parties and informal social gatherings. Former Youth Club members continued to frequent the YMCA and play board games like Scrabble but not on a regular basis. The YMCA remained a meeting place for friends who would go there almost every night to sit and talk.

The Social and Cultural Department, headed by Michel Asfour, felt the void caused by the absence of the Youth Club and lack of constructive social activity. "The physical activities department was always the dominant one at the 'Y'. We used to have some social activities like parties or a theatrical play but with time we felt a need to expand," Asfour explained.

An immediate outcome of this was a leadership training programme which began in 1975. "We concentrated mainly on high school and university students and taught them leadership and responsibility," said Asfour. "We paid special attention on developing individuals and society." In order to foster this programme, special summer camps were held for the participants in different West Bank cities. A choir was also recently formed of 24 youths who completed the leadership training course.

The Social and Cultural Department is also in the process of starting more projects at the 'Y'. The Scrabble Club is one outcome. Efforts are underway for a chess club. A bingo club will start regularly this month and continue on the last Thursday of every month.

Other planned activities include revitalising the theatre. The YMCA already has a small movie theatre which, according to Asfour, it plans to refurbish to use for major shows and indoor tournaments, like table tennis.

The new choir is one part in an arts programme the 'Y' is proposing. It also bought musical instruments and is making them available to local groups who would like to practice with them. *Sabreen*, a popular Arabic music group, frequently tunes up on the Y's instruments. The 'Y' also furnishes the groups with studio space. Twelve students are signed up for piano and guitar lessons given at the 'Y.'

The Social and Cultural Department is hoping to develop a major theatre group and make the YMCA an arts centre in Jerusalem. Asfour said the 'Y' has the potential because of its reputation, facilities and large membership of 1500, mainly in the athletic department.

The lack of constructive social activities in Jerusalem, like intellectual panel discussions and symposia, and the general feeling among members of the Y's Social and Cultural Department that Jerusalemites crave non-family activities and social gatherings to waylay boredom led to ideas of creating the 'Y' into a community centre. The Scrabble Club was a first concrete result.

According to Scrabble organisers, about 10 members of the 'Y' got into the habit of visiting the 'Y' almost every night, several years running, and playing the word game. They had had special interest in Scrabble for years and have been playing together all this time. They are all old friends and long active in YMCA activities. There is currently being held the third Scrabble tournament at the 'Y'. Wasif Daher, one of this year's eight tournament contestants, is current champion.

The Scrabble tournament began October 22. Each of the contestants plays two games with the same person until they have played all seven opponents. The winner gets two points. The one who accumulates the most number of points wins the tourney. There will also be another winner, the one who accumulates the highest single game score. The tournament is expected to finish by mid-November.

In order to encourage more people to play Scrabble and to widen the group, the club is currently sponsoring a special open Scrabble night once a month. Anyone interested can come and play without being a paid member in the YMCA, according to the club's president, Nazih Freij. The YMCA administration usually does not allow non-members to participate in activities, whether sports or social, unless that person is a friend or relative of a member. This rule has hindered the social clubs in the past since full membership (JD52) in the YMCA is expensive. However, a special membership in the Social and Cultural Department (JD19) has been instituted for those with no interest in sports. Asfour said he is trying to encourage the YMCA administration to allow non-members to regularly attend social events, including the Scrabble games.

"One problem we have is continuity," said Shukri Abdullah, another member in the club. "We begin enthusiastically for one month and then it dies down" he said. This time members of the Scrabble club say they are determined to go on with the games. "For three years now we have come and played almost daily," Freij said. "We are sure we will continue to play because we are very enthusiastic." Daher agreed, saying it was their love of the crossword game that continually brought them together every night to play for long hours. The club is hoping to start family Scrabble nights in which members can bring the whole family to socialise while those who want to play get on with the game. Most of the club members are men who go for several hours after work before returning home to their families.

Even playing Scrabble brought 'internal conflict' to the 'Y'. "We used to have many problems when we first started playing since every time a letter or an unknown word was played we had to fight over it and go to all kinds of dictionaries to check it," Daher said. "But five years ago I was in New York in a big bookshop and found a games section. There I looked for Scrabble and found a special Scrabble dictionary. I was so pleased I bought three." That ended the conflict among regular players; now their main reference is 'the book.'

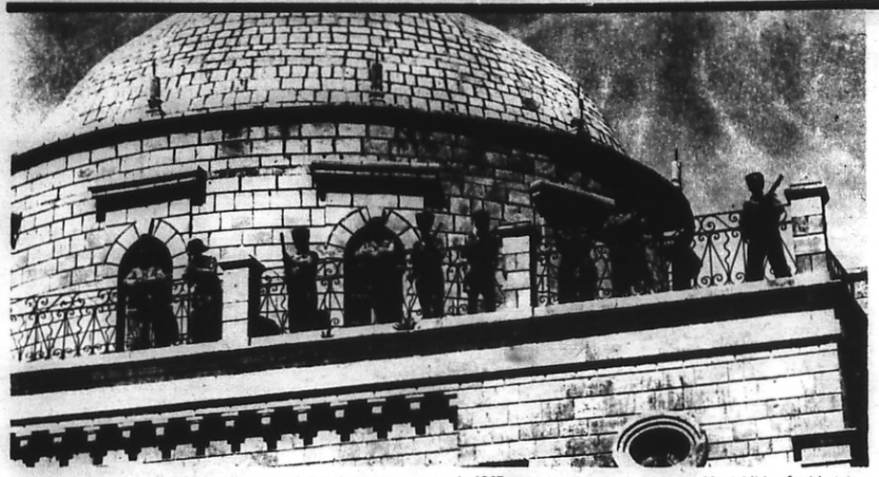
"We do not always go by the Scrabble dictionary. We use what the majority wants, like Webster or Oxford dictionaries," said Scrabbler Majed Kreitem. Usually on Scrabble evenings, regular dictionaries are used since the majority of attendees from outside the Scrabble Club are not privy to special Scrabble book language and prefer plain dictionary English.

The special dictionary of this lingo is used as the official book in tournament games. It includes such words as 'Eh,' 'Ae' and 'Insureds.' According to Freij, "The presence of such language makes playing more challenging." It also makes Scrabblers into poker-bluffers. Daher agreed saying that "when one of the players uses a word never heard of before, his opponent hesitates to challenge him for fear of losing points." Daher said Freij is known to have a particularly good memory and when he uses a 'funny' word, his opponents are wary to contest it.

The Scrabble club is ready to hold tournaments with other West Bank clubs if any are established. Members of the club dream that similar clubs will be established in other West Bank cities so that they will have an area-wide tournament. Currently the contestants are playing for a plaque offered by their club. The Scrabble Club also has plans to start playing Arabic Scrabble, but this could prove more difficult and daunting due to the structure of the language.

The Question of Jerusalem

In this third in a series of chapters reprinted from **Henry Cattan's** *The Question of Jerusalem* Israel's actions to Judaise the city after both the 1948 and 1967 wars are revealed.



Jewish constables with British officers guard *Tiferet Israel* **synagogue in 1947:** *(The Jews) decided... they would establish a Jewish state, regardless of the conditions and boundaries laid down by the partition resolution and at the expense of the areas reserved for the Arab state and for the* corpus separatum *of Jerusalem."*

"The Jews had completed the occupation of most of modern Jerusalem before the day on which (the 1948) war broke out between Israel and the Arab states."

continued from last week

Israel's Unlawful Actions in Jerusalem

It is not the intention to list here all the unlawful actions which Israel has committed and continues to commit in Jerusalem. These actions are of many kinds and include violations of human rights and breaches of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12 1949. The discussion will be confined to those actions which have affected the character and status of the Holy City: namely, the usurpation of Jerusalem, the uprooting of its Arab inhabitants, the looting and confiscation of their property and the colonisation of the city and its environs:

1. *The usurpation of Jerusalem was carried out in two stages.*

In 1948, Israel seized Modern Jerusalem, including 12 of its 15 wholly Arab residential quarters. The Jewish plan to seize Jerusalem was laid down and partly carried out before May 15 1948, the date which was set for the termination of the British mandate on Palestine. John Bagot Glubb who commanded in 1948 the Arab Legion of Jordan puts it on record that the command of the *Irgun* (Menachem Begin's terrorist organisation) had defined Jerusalem as one of its objectives several months before the end of the mandate.

The Jews had at first accepted, or feigned to accept, the partition resolution, including its provision for the internationalisation of Jerusalem, because it offered a basis for the establishment of a Jewish state. But they wanted a much bigger slice of the territory of Palestine than the mere 57 percent of its area which was alloted to them by the partition plan. Above all, they wanted Jerusalem which had been the subject of Jewish dreams and aspirations during many centuries. So they decided that in any event they would establish a Jewish state, regardless of the conditions and boundaries laid down by the partition resolution, and at the expense of the areas reserved for the Arab state and for the *corpus separatum* of Jerusalem.

These considerations explain why the proclamation of the Jewish state made on May 14 1948, was silent upon the question of its boundaries. That such silence was not an oversight but quite deliberate has since been admitted by the framers of the proclamation. In fact, Ben Gurion then opposed the delimitation of boundaries for the state of Israel and said that such boundaries would be fixed by the force of arms.

The plan to seize Jerusalem was put into effect before the withdrawal of the Mandatory. In fact, all the western part of the *corpus separatum* and some parts of the modern section of Jerusalem were seized by Jewish forces while British forces and the British High Commissioner were still present in Jerusalem. Two Arab residential quarters of Modern Jerusalem, namely Katamon and Sheikh Jarrah, were seized and occupied by Jewish forces on April 25 and 30 respectively. Other Arab quarters of Modern Jerusalem were overrun by Jewish forces on May 14 and 15.

Thus the Jews had completed the occupation of most of Modern Jerusalem before the day on which war broke out between Israel and the Arab states.

Pablo de Azcarate, Secretary of the UN Consular Truce Commission, has described events at Jerusalem on May 14. The British High Commissioner left Jerusalem on the morning of that day by air for Haifa whence he sailed home. He was followed by British troops so that at about 2:00 pm not a single soldier remained in Jerusalem. Here is the story as told by Pablo de Azcarate: "Hardly had the last English soldier disappeared than the Jews launched their offensive, consolidating their possession of Katamon which they occupied two weeks before and seizing the German Colony and other southern districts of Jerusalem. The last remaining Arabs were liquidated, and from henceforth, the Jews were absolute masters of the southern part of the city."

"(In 1948) the Arab residents (of Jerusalem) were ordered under dire threats to leave the city... Again in 1967... they were told their safety would not be guaranteed."

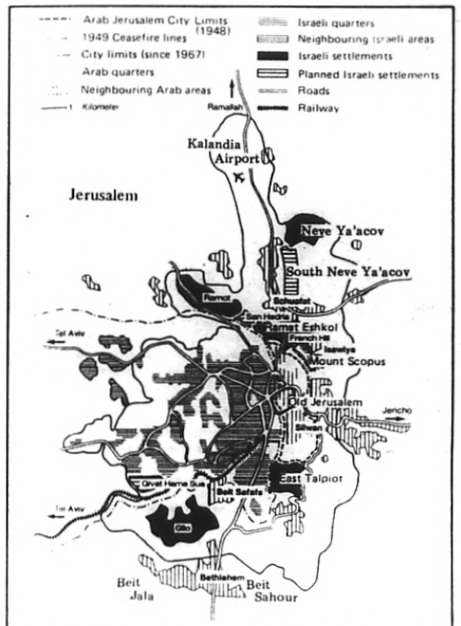
The Arab quarters of Modern Jerusalem were completely undefended and their inhabitants had either fled or were killed. In those quarters where the Jews encountered resistance, such as in Musrarah, the Arab residents were terrorised by the *Haganah* which had been proclaimed the official army of the new state of Israel. The Arab residents were ordered under dire threats to leave the city.

Watching from the Italian Hospital the fighting which was going on in the vicinity on May 15, Harry Levin, a Jewish newspaper correspondent, says: "Nearby, a loudspeaker burst out in Arabic: *Haganah* broadcasting to civilian Arabs, urging them to leave the district before 5:15 am. 'Take pity on your wives and children and get out of this blood bath,' it said. 'Surrender to us with your arms. No harm will come to you. Or get out by the Jericho road that is still open to you. If you stay, you invite disaster.'"

Haganah **capturing defence post in 1947. The Jewish militias used loudspeakers to terrorise Palestinians into fleeing:** *"Take pity on your wives and children and get out of this bloodbath... get out by the Jericho road that is still open to you. If you stay, you invite disaster."*

The Arab quarters of Modern Jerusalem which were seized were the most beautiful residental parts of the city. Hence, it is an error to imagine that in 1948 the Israelis seized the Jewish section of the city, and the Arabs seized the Arab part. In fact, the larger part of the modern section was inhabited by two-thirds of the Arab population of Jerusalem.

After the Jews overran the Arab quarters of Modern Jerusalem, they attacked the Old City on three fronts, in a determined effort to link up with those entrenched in the Jewish quarter and to take the city by storm. Levin wrote in his diary: "*Haganah* is trying desperately to relieve the quarter. Today [May 18] they got right up to the walls. During the night Palmach seized Deir Abu Tor and immediately pushed across the vale of Hinnom and captured Mount Zion. Without a pause, they went for Zion Gate with bazookas, their heaviest weapons, but failed. Another unit stormed strongpoints around Jaffa Gate, but couldn't breach the Gate itself. Last night's objective was a concerted attempt to smash through three gates: none of it was achieved."



Map shows Jerusalem boundaries in 1948 and the expanded Jerusalem 'annexed' in 1967.

Only on May 19 1948 did Jordan's Arab Legion respond to appeals for help by the beleaguered Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem and move to occupy the Old City.

Undeterred by the UN internationalisation of the City of Jerusalem which was rejected by both occupying powers, Israel proceeded to annex Modern Jerusalem. On August 12 1948 it proclaimed that the area it had occupied in Jerusalem was "Israeli-occupied territory" subject to military occupation. Then in February 1949, military rule was abolished and the government declared that such area should no longer be considered as occupied territory.

Thereupon several ministries were moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and in December 1949 the government itself moved to Jerusalem, leaving in Tel Aviv three ministries, including the ministry of foreign affairs. Immediately after, pressure developed to declare Jerusalem the capitol of the state of Israel but the Knesset preferred to adopt a resolution on January 23 1950 which proclaimed that Jerusalem has always been the capitol of Israel. Since then Israel has treated Modern Jerusalem as an integral part of its territory.

In a second stage Israel completed its usurpation of the rest of Jerusalem. On June 5 1967 Israel launched a war of aggression against Egypt, Syria and Jordan. In a lightning surprise attack, Israeli aircraft destroyed Egypt's fighters and bombers on their aerodromes and Israel's armed forces invaded the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Desert, the Golan region, the Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank. Despite the issue of several cease-fire orders by the Security Council, Israel pursued its attacks until it achieved its territorial objectives. On the evening of June 7 the Old City of Jerusalem as well as all the rest of Palestine were in Israeli hands.

Although Israel pretended to the Security Council on June 5 1967 that it was the victim of aggression and that "Egyptian land and air forces have moved against Israel and that Israeli forces are now engaged in repelling the Egyptian forces," it is now established that this was a fabricated story intended to cover up Israel's aggression.

The same deceit was practised by Israel to cover up its aggression against Jordan. General Odd Bull, chief of staff of the UN Truce Supervison Organisation, reports that on June 5 an official of the Israeli foreign ministry informed him "that Egyptian planes had taken off against Israel but had been intercepted by Israeli planes" and asked him "to transmit a message to King Hussein expressing the hope of the Israeli government that he would not join in the war. If he stayed out, Israel would not attack him, but if, on the other hand, he chose to come in, Israel would use against him all the means at its disposal."

However, the pretence that Israel would not attack Jordan is belied by the secret decision adopted by the Israeli cabinet on June 4 1967 (which was made public on June 4 1972) to attack Egypt, Syria and Jordan on the following day. It is also belied by Israel's annexation of the Old City in less than three weeks after its capture.

Although on the first day of the war, Israel's prime minister, Levi Eshkol, proclaimed that Israel had no territorial claims and Israel's defence minister, Moshe Dayan, declared that "we have no aim of territorial conquest," Israel proceeded with the annexation of the Old City soon after its capture. On June 27 1967, it enacted the *Law and Administration Ordinance* (Amendment No. 11) which provided that the law, jurisdiction and administration of the state should apply in any area designated by the government by order.

On the following day the Israeli government issued an order which declared that an area comprising the Old City of Jerusalem and some adjacent territory shall be subject to the law, jurisdiction and administration of Israel. This meant nothing else but the annexation of the Old City and other designated areas. On the same day the area of the Municipal Corporation of Jerusalem was enlarged to include the annexed area. This meant an expansion of the municipal area of Jerusalem from 40 to 100 square kilometers.

Compared with the *corpus separatum* of Jerusalem as delineated by the UN in 1947, the expanded area remained approximately the same at the east and west, but was extended to the north to include Kalandia airport, and was cut back in the south to exclude the three Arab towns of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour. In effect, Israel annexed the entirety of the *corpus separatum* of Jerusalem as defined by the UN in 1947 to the exclusion of the three towns. Since then Jerusalem and its surrounding area have been severed politically, administratively and economically from the other territories occupied in June 1967 and have been treated as Israeli territory, except with regard to the national status of the inhabitants who have remained Jordanian citizens.

Israel attempted at first to deceive world opinion and to explain away the annexation of the Old City as an innocent action possessing no political significance. Abba Eban, Israel's foreign minister, told the General Assembly on June 29 1967: "Some delegations and governments have made statements in recent days concerning certain developments in Jerusalem. There seems to me to be a basic misunderstanding about the import of yesterday's administrative legislation. This, as the General Assembly will be aware, contained no new political state-

"Israel did not permit the repatriation of the refugees whose homes were in Jerusalem."

Palestinian refugees flee to the East Bank over the Jordan River bridge: *"The Arab quarters of modern Jerusalem were completely undefended and their inhabitants had either fled or were killed... only on May 19, 1948 did Jordan's Arab legion respond to appeals for help by the beleaguered Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem and move to occupy the Old City."*

However, the General Assembly was not misled by this rhetoric and condemned the annexation in no uncertain terms. Similarly, the Security Council also condemned Israel's annexation and declared it invalid.

Despite its initial false statements to the UN about its guiltless intentions with regard to Jerusalem, Israel subse-

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Racism and the Housing Shortage

Palestinian students in Israeli universities have long complained of being squeezed out of dormitories and priced out of apartments off-campus. But since the war in Lebanon, students and other Palestinians have increasingly experienced political and racist discrimination against open housing. Israeli journalist Zuhair Androus discusses the problem for *Al Hamishmar*.

The owner of the house was impressed by the lawyer's fluent and idiomatic command of Hebrew. The lawyer spoke to her with an Israeli accent and their discussion was warm and friendly. He accepted her conditions but when he gave his name — which immediately identified him as an Arab — the landlord was taken aback.

"Are you..."

"I am an Arab," he replied emphatically.

"I don't want any problems," she muttered.

"There is a central clause which Arab students just can't meet – army or national service."

"I understand," he said. "You aren't the first person to react in this way and probably far from being the last."

Mtanous Sha'ar's personal account of his apartment-hunting experiences in Carmel are not atypical.

Aida Tuma, a student from Nazareth, had a different experience but the outcome was the same: she was rejected as a tenant because she was an Arab. Aida and three other Arab students rented an apartment in Haifa's Ramot Remez neighbourhood. The landlord didn't care if they were Jewish or not; what mattered to him was the prompt payment of the rent on the first of every month. But the tenants' committee did care and repeatedly discussed the "necessity of getting those Arab women out of the apartment building." According to Aida: "When one of the members of the tenants' committee discovered that we were Arabs, he began to pester us. He made totally baseless allegations about the noise coming from our apartment, accusing us of disturbing the peace of the building. We had no choice but to accept the fact that we weren't wanted — but we had nowhere else to go. However our neighbour was not satisfied with that. Every so often he would complain to the police about the racket coming from our apartment. At first the police fell for the stories he fabricated but after arriving a few times at two in the morning to find us asleep, they stopped answering his calls. Then he began to threaten us and send strangers over to pester us. Our life became hell and in the end we left the apartment."

Students and professors from the Technion and members of the Committee Against Racism protest discriminatory admittance procedures at the Technion and raise signs saying 'Do Not Do Kahane's Job For Him': *"The majority of Arab applicants are refused student accommodation and are forced to go apartment hunting."*

Yunis Khurshid and his sister, a student at the Haifa Technion, have been living in a rented apartment on Derech Habanim St. in Haifa for the past two years. They recently renewed their lease for another year. Their relations with their landlord are excellent and they feel quite at home in the four-storey apartment building. According to Yunis: "Our relations with the other people in the building are very good. We don't feel any hostility. In fact, our upstairs neighbour sometimes brings us one of her homemade cakes and is always happy to take phone messages for us. Co-existence and mutual appreciation are real here. I'm surprised to learn that some Arab students have problems finding an apartment because of the fact that they're Arab. I have been renting apartments for the past five years and have yet to come across anyone who refused me on account of my being an Arab."

Student housing at Hebrew University: **"The average monthly rent of a two-room apartment can be as high as US$170, which is quite a sum compared to the US$36-a-month dormitory rent."**

There are 1060 Arab students studying at institutions of higher learning in Haifa. The great majority live in rented apartments; a handful of native Haifa residents are not faced with the problem of having to find a place to live.

Everyone has his own story and every story begins the same way, namely, the rejection of their application for accomodation in the student dormitories of the Haifa University and the Technion. The criteria of selection clearly discriminates against Arab students: grades, distance from home, financial standing and the committee's recommendations are all par for the course, but there is a central clause which Arab students just can't meet — army or national service. The majority of Arab applicants are refused student accommodations and are forced to go apartment hunting in order to find a place to live. The average monthly rent of a two-room apartment can be as high as US$170, which is quite a sum compared to the US$36 a month dormitory rent.

Amir Makhoul is the chairperson of the Arab Student's Union — a body that is not recognised by Israeli university administrations. He is also the chairperson of Haifa University's Arab Student's Union. Two years ago his name hit the headlines when Ariel Sharon — at the time, the minister of defence — came to speak on campus. Amir and a small group of students tried to enter the auditorium but were prevented from doing so by the ushers. A scuffle broke out and the disciplinary board of the university decided to suspend Amir from the sociology and history departments for a full semester.

In regard to the Arab students' housing problems, Amir had quite a bit to say: "This problem is one of our major concerns and we have yet to find a satisfactory solution. The university administration has exacerbated the problem by refusing to cooperate with us. We try to find accommodations for Arab students whose applications to the dorms were turned down. The clause related to the army service is obviously racist and hits the Arab students very hard. In many cases, students from distant villages meet all the criteria except for the clause about the army and are refused nonetheless. At the same time, Jewish students from Kfat Ata and Kiryat Motzkin, who do not really need a room in the dorms, receive one simply because they meet this requirement. Obviously, the committee which deals with applications to live in the dorms is guided by political rather than academic criteria."

Last week Amir placed an ad in *Al Hamishmar* on behalf of the Arab Student Union, seeking Jewish families who don't mind renting an apartment to Arab students. The plan worked and according to Amir, "Many families with a spare apartment rang up the next day." But the problem is far from being solved. Many students are crowded into apartments meant for two or three occupants. It's hard to say exactly when the problem took a turn for the worse. Amir dates it to the Lebanese War, during which Arab students in Haifa organised a relief program for Palestinian war casualties who had been hospitalised in the city. Many people disapproved of their move. The murder of an Israeli teenager last year added fuel to the fire.

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Al Manar and YMCA Choir Join Voices in Successful Concert

by Lesley AbuKhater

"Fantastic" was young Karen Garine's response to last month's joint performance of *al-Manar* band and the East Jerusalem YMCA choir. Performing to sold-out crowds at *El-Hakawati Theatre* for three nights October 26, 27, and 28 — the musical youth impressed the audience with a highly professional programme of Armenian, Arabic and American music.

The seven-member *al-Manar* band began four years ago as a leisurely grouping of friends wanting to share their music with the local Armenian and Palestinian communities. Lead singer Bassam Bishara, the only non-Armenian in the music-group, helped form the band with the original intention of playing at weddings and private parties. The band and choir have developed into an artistic force in local contemporary music with last month's concert proving to be only the first of many more to come.

The 24-member YMCA choir is new to Jerusalem having formed only one month ago. The choir ranging in age from 14 to 20, is made up of local Palestinian students who are graduates of the 'Y' youth leadership training programme. They performed only once prior to the October concert at the East Jerusalem YMCA with *al-Manar* in a re-enactment of a traditional Palestinian wedding for a visiting group from Germany.

Bassam Bishara, lead singer and director of the choir.

The YMCA choir, whom Bishara refers to as a "very professional group musically," rehearse only one day a week. In fact, the three-part harmony was achieved by the group after only four rehearsals. Bishara is hoping for a more intensive rehearsal schedule of at least twice a week, but schoolwork makes it difficult for most of the choir members to rehearse more.

The October performance by *al-Manar* and the choir was in most respects excellent. Musically the groups were top quality and obviously made up of musicians who have had formal training in music rather than what is often found in the occupied territories — one or two people who can play a simple chord on the guitar and a few others who please aunts and uncles in a vocal rendition of Um Khoulthoum songs.

The major fault with the groups' performance, however, involved selection of pieces and organisation of the programme. The audience, expecting the choir's participation from the beginning, was surprised, however, when the entire first half was taken up by *al-Manar* and two female soloists. Even the selection of songs in this first half left the audience searching in vain for a central theme.

The performance moved from an instrumental medley of *Rahbani* music (an amalgmation of western and eastern music made popular by Fairouz) to a solo rendition by the organist of a currently popular rock song in America called "Self-Control." The rest of the first half included two more popular American songs, two songs by Fairouz, a nationalist Armenian piece and a song of Egyptian folklore. The complicated mixture of styles and themes in this half causes one's head to spin.

In direct contrast with the confused first part, the programme's second half was entirely devoted to Palestinian nationalist music. The choir and band jointly performed 10 pieces, all of which drew attention to the Palestinian plight with lyrics of pain and unrequited longing for a homeland. The audience, moved several times to wild applause, clearly identified more with the concert's second half than the first. One member of the audience from Jenin, Badr Malhis, said the artistic level of the performance was excellent, but he disliked the use of western music in the first half.

Yousef al-Alam from Beit Jala felt that the western and eastern music should not have been mixed in the same programme. "The group was much more effective with the Arabic music," said Alam, " which one felt was coming from within the singers and musicians."

Clearly the mixture of styles in the programme reflects indecision of styles in the concert organisers as to whether to stress one area, such as Palestinian nationalism, or to entertain the audience with a little bit of everything the groups were capable of. The result was part dance band and part Mormon Tabernacle choir.

Members of *al-Manar* band and the YMCA choir perform an interlude before one of the many nationalist Palestinian tunes jointly performed by the groups in their October concert/EZ photo.

Musically, the performance was a cut above most vocal and instrumental ensembles heard this year in Jerusalem. *Al-Manar*, led by Bishara who holds a bachelor of arts degree in music from Hebrew University, is a quality grouping of obviously dedicated musicians, each seems equally comfortable with a number of styles and a widely varied repertoire.

In addition to Sarkis Hagopian and George Joseph on guitar, the band boasts a capable drummer in Freij Njarian who was able to shift easily from the demanding rock rhythm of the American tunes to the more militaristic, decidely Arab beat of Palestinian music. Tafit Samoulian, on trumpet and bongos, was very moving in his performance of the Armenian piece "Child Without A Childhood." Garo Dmerjian, on piano and organ, was fairly good on two of the three English selections offered, though his accent and diction made the lyrics of the third piece -"Careless Whispers"- difficult to follow. Bishara in his versatile style of moving from organ to violin to the Arabic *oud* was excellent. A musician for some twelve years, he now teaches instrumental music in three private schools on the West Bank.

The band fell short of musical excellence only a few times when the lead guitar was briefly out of tune on one number, and when the heavy vibrato stop on the organ was way overused. The use of the synthesizer to make wave-like sounds was effective at first but often used before a piece which did not warrant such buildup. When accompanying Bishara's traditional desert violin, the balance of the band was very good — simple drum beat and only a high tone on the organ. There was at times technical trouble with the electricity which led to cracks in the amplifier and drains of electricity from the organ. Generally the balance was good in the first half, but the second half often found the band louder than the choir making it difficult to catch the lyrics and three-part vocals.

The YMCA choir, for which auditions were held, was by far the best vocal group heard this season in the occupied territories — much better, in fact, than those groups who competed in the Bir Zeit festival in August. Considering their youth and scant rehearsal schedule, their performance was in all respects superb. The introduction of each selection by poetry read aloud by a member of the group was effective most of the time, but tended towards the end of the performance to be monotonous and a little too didactic. For future performances, it would also increase the professionalism of the group if lyrics were memorised eliminating the need for songbooks. The balance of the choir was near perfection with 18 female voices to the six male, and was only disturbed, as mentioned previously, when the band, particularly the organ, was too loud for the singers.

Elements of staging and dress were generally pleasing, but dress for each group seemed to highlight their separate functions. The choir with their nationalist repertoire wore traditional Palestinian costume — the girls in black, colourfully embroidered *thwab* and the boys in white shirts, black trousers and black and white *kuffiyas*. The band, however, reflecting their usual performance tour of weddings and private parties wore hot pink silk shirts, white pants and white dinner scarves thrown round their necks. For a joint performance with a nationalist repertoire, it would be better for the groups to merge into one standard outfit.

Lighting, done by Terry Moloney, was by far the most professional element of staging. There was even a light in the lighthouse of the backdrop (*al-Manar* means "the lighthouse") which flashed on and off during intermission. Much of the younger audience found that fascinating.

Staging, particularly in the second half, was partly responsible for the balance problem between vocals and instrumentals. The choir should have been brought to the front of the stage since they were featured in that half and the band moved to one side or down, off stage, as in an orchestra pit. In addition to problems with staging, the set design — chiefly a backdrop painting

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WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

Palestinian papers were devoted this week to reports on the assassination of Indira Ghandi, the upcoming Israeli-Lebanese military talks and the latest Israeli decision to freeze prices for a three-month period.

Local papers featured long reports coupled with photos and editorials dealing with the death of India's prime minister. Ghandi, who was also the leader of the non-aligned movement, was mourned by the local press as a friend of Palestinians.

The Israeli decision to freeze prices of goods and services for three months and the imposition of this decision on the occupied territories drew critical comment from the Arab press. Local papers ran analyses of the decision as well as long lists of prices for the affected items as dictated by the various Israeli ministries.

Indira Ghandi

We are deeply sorry for the assassination of Indira Ghandi who was really one of the greatest women in recent times. She gave her people all means of development and to fight poverty, hunger and disease. She achieved national unity and is one of the major figures in the non-aligned movement. She was a supporter of national liberation movements.

She tried hard to solve the problems of the *Sikh* sect in India and to meet their just demands. Great deeds and civilised achievements have a price. Indira paid the price with her life.

As for the Palestinian people, they will never forget Indira's support of the Palestinian cause which she considered as the cause of justice, peace and stability, not only in the Middle East but in the world as well.

AL FAJR
November 1

A Great Friend

With the tragic departure of Indira Ghandi the Indian people have lost a unique leader. The international community have lost a personality who defended the causes of the third world. The Palestinian people have lost a sincere friend and supporter of their cause.

The personality of the daughter of Nero went beyond the borders of her own country. She added to India's weight in the international arena. She continued to build up non-alignment to oppose imperialism. She maintained unity in India.

Ghandi fully supported Palestinian national rights and strengthened relations between her country and the PLO. She also maintained constant contacts with the Palestinian leaders.

AL SHA'AB
November 1

A Great Woman

No one expected such a painful end to Indira Ghandi. She did not deserve such cruel treatment. During Ghandi's rule in the last two decades she supported the rights of the people and abided by democracy. She worked for improving the conditions of the Indian people.

Ghandi gained international recognition as the leader of the non-aligned movement and a defender of peace and international coexistence.

Indira Ghandi's achievement in her country and throughout the international arena prove that women can contribute a lot to the advancement of society. Her decision regarding the storming of the Golden Temple does not lessen the significance of her standing or her achievements.

Though human life is weak, the principles and goals for which we work are immortal and strong. Ghandi lived for noble goals and her name will always be remembered.

AL QUDS
November 1

Algeria's Revolution and Today's Hope

Two days ago was the 30th anniversary of the Algerian revolution which achieved its great victory after seven years of continued struggle, from 1954 to 1961. Algeria and the whole Arab nation celebrated this anniversary.

The interest in this anniversary is perhaps greater at this stage to emphasise the conviction that Arabs are able to achieve victory and underline the notion of the independence of national decision as adopted by the Algerian revolution to protect itself from falling under guardianship or submitting to any siege.

The current Arab stage is so difficult that it may cause pessimism and frustration, because of the conflicting official Arab axis, the internal wars, the growing suppression of the peoples, the repeated American assaults to control the resources and wealth of these peoples and the attempts of some Arab regimes to split the PLO, besiege it and confiscate its independent decision.

Through this awareness, we were optimistically convinced of the possibility of convening the PNC in Algiers. We demanded the realisation of this possibility so as to emphasise the unshakable depth of the Algerian revolution in our minds, and to emphasise the distinguished role of Algeria in maintaining PLO unity and independence.

Though we realise, as we said, that the 'site' will not affect matters, as long as the 'position' is the same anywhere, yet we still hope, while celebrating the anniversary of the Algerian revolution, that efforts will succeed in holding the Palestinian meeting in Algiers on the fixed date and within the drawn legitimate framework.

AL FAJR
November 2

Dheisheh Camp

The camp is located on the highway between Bethlehem and Hebron. It is populated by thousands of refugees who were displaced in 1948. Though most of those who suffered displacement are dead now, they left behind their children and grandchildren.

This camp has suffered a lot from collective punishment. It has suffered more than its share of the provocations of the settlers, especially from the racist Jewish Rabbi Levinger.

The residents of this camp are leading a harsh life, deprived of the simplest basics of life. The ground of the camp is rocky and uncultivable. There is no place to raise livestock. And there is no room for any industry. So they are living on UNRWA provisions which are barely enough to keep life going. Therefore, they work in neighbouring cities or in Israeli construction projects.

The camp residents bring in their own drinking water and supplies from outside. But the authorities, in order to prevent these basic materials from entering the camp, decide to block the entrances and exits with cement. Thus entering or leaving the camp is not done easily.

Curfews are constantly in effect and no sooner does one end than another begins. This curfew means cruelty and torment for those who don't have provisions for more than one meal. It is more so for children, the sick and the elderly.

During the last few days Rabbi Levinger practised his provocative hobby and forced his way into the camp while drawing his revolver. Women and children were terrified. The Israeli authorities were quick to impose curfew on the camp instead of arresting Rabbi Levinger and throwing him into jail to avoid his evils.

In parallel with Levinger, the other rabbi MK (Kahane) is moving among Arab cities, villages and camps calling upon the Arabs to emigrate. Everytime he does that the authorities send a regiment of the police and border patrol to follow Kahane from one place to another, as if it were a cat and mouse game.

Haim Bar Lev, the minister of police, did well when he mentioned in his speech before the Knesset while reviewing terror acts, that the state of Israel is applying two laws: one for the Arabs, and it is harsh and violent, and the other for the Jews which is lenient and gentle. This is what the Israeli minister in charge of security said. Do we still need further proof that racist danger exists in Israel?

Instead of inflicting punishment on cities, villages and camps indiscriminately, the Israeli authorities should prevent Kahane and other extremists from cruising around and provoking the Arab population. Thus it will be doing well to deal with the explosive situation.

AL QUDS
November 3

USS Independence on Election Eve

American elections are held on the first Tuesday of November every four years. This Tuesday falls on the sixth of the month. The American administration made it a point on election to stage an aggressive military show in the Middle East - an area which the United States considers "private property" wherein it can act at will.

Yesterday, just two days before the American elections, the US carrier Independence headed for the Mediterranean under the pretext of protecting American interests in the area.

What interests do the American fleets seek to protect?

We know that most countries in the area are open to American capital. They follow a policy totally controlled by the United States. So, which force is threatening these regimes and their policies, to the point where American units are placed on the alert to face any emergency?

Though we don't want to mock this issue, we try, at least, to understand the significance of this stunning disdain with which America handles the independence, dignity and freedom of the peoples of the area.

Is it possible that all this major military show at this particular time is staged to force an emergency in the Middle East? Could it be more aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people so as to paralyse any thought of striking American institutions, companies and embassies?

Yet this military show, in its direct significance, is a prelude to impose American control on the peoples of the area on the eve of the American elections.

Isn't America a superpower? It is more befitting, according to this aggressive logic, that this supremacy be translated into a direct terror act. Otherwise how could the United States talk about its major interests in the area?

AL FAJR
November 5

Gaza Artist Taysir Barakat Exhibits in Jerusalem

Gazan artist Taysir Barakat, 26, opened his first Jerusalem exhibition November 6 in *El Hakawati* Theatre in East Jerusalem. One hundred persons attended opening night at the exhibit which includes oil paintings and pencil drawings done over the past three years.

Barakat, from Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, studied art at the Alexandria College of Fine Arts. He now teaches at al-Tireh Community College For Women in Ramallah. The exhibit will continue until November 18.

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November 10, 11, 13, 14: At the *El-Hakawati* Theatre: *El-Hakawati* presents *'Ali the Galilean*. Matinee performances for schools. Call 280-957 for ticket availability and times.

November 15: At the *El-Hakawati* Theatre: Film entitled *Midnight Express*. Story of a young American jailed in Turkey for possession of drugs and his eventual escape from prison and Turkey. 7.00 pm. (English, Hebrew subtitles.)

November 16: At the *YMCA* East Jerusalem: Scrabble Evening. Everyone, including non-YMCA members welcome. Game in English but language proficiency not required. 7:00 pm. For more information contact Michel Asfour or Nazih Freij at the YMCA. Telephone: 282-375.

November 17: March: annual demonstration to villages of Iqrit and Biram. The *Awdah* (Return) movement calls on all to join them in protesting the Israeli decision to evacuate the villages in 1951 and to continue to bar them from return. March begins at 10:00 am from the Sa'sa intersection, northeast of Nahariya, in Upper Galilee. Buses leave from Haifa bus station at 9:00 am. For more information call: (04) 67010-498 or (04) 532-837.

Question of Jerusalem

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quently made no secret of its annexation of the city which it described as 'integration' and of its determination to maintain it against all odds notwithstanding its condemnation by the UN. Israel even boldly declared that its annexation of Jerusalem is 'irrevocable' and 'not negotiable.'

Israel's action in annexing the Old City should not be equated with Jordan's action in 1950 in proceeding with the unification of Jordanian and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. These two actions differ basically in their purpose, legal nature and political significance. Israel's action was plainly an aggression and a usurpation of Arab territory by a foreign people. Jordan's action was taken with the consent of the Palestinians and did not involve their subjugation, displacement or dispossession. In accordance with the constitution adopted for the unified territories of Jordan and Palestine, the National Assembly was constituted of an equal number of Jordanians and Palestinians. Hence, Jordan's action was neither an aggression nor a usurpation.

Finally to crown its usurpation Israel enacted on July 30 1980 a so-called "basic law" which proclaimed Jerusalem its eternal capitol. The UN condemned Israel's action.

continued next week

Racism and Housing

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Public opinion turned against Arab students and many Jewish families became suspicious of them. Kahane's election to the Knesset made matters worse. His racist incitements influenced those who had previously been apathetic. Today, they are unwilling to rent their spare apartment to Arabs. Some even prefer to leave their apartment empty.

Arab students are not eligible for dormitory accommodations because they have not served in the army. Who is to blame? Arab students have great difficulties in finding apartments because they are not Jewish. Who is blame? Kahane himself has shown up at Haifa University. Needless to say, he has his own pathological solution for the Arab students' housing shortage. (Translation: Al Hamishmar, October 30, 1984)

Al Manar and YMCA Choir

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of a lighthouse doubling as a prison — was confusing and amateurish. The message was unclear. The theme of imprisonment is common enough in Palestinian art but the addition of a captured ship on one hand and a drowning hand on the other seemed unrelated.

The second half opened with a moment of silence for the Palestinian martyrs which, though strangely placed in the middle of the performance and not the beginning, set the mood for what was to come. The audience were clearly ready for a celebration of their heritage in selections describing the nationalist struggle. Throughout the performance the audience was captivated, often applauding wildly. At one point when Bishara introduced a song with the words "When Kahane comes calling, neither the children nor the animals will be afraid," members of the audience shouted "Yes, Yes" and stood loudly clapping for minutes on end. (Kahane is the racist rabbi leading a campaign to expel Arabs from their homeland.) When asked about the audience response, Bishara said it pleased him. "It was good, but we have to do something different next time, something more powerful," he said.

Clearly the most powerful element of the October concert were the lyrics in the nationalist selections. This was what the choir had sung for, this was what the audience had come for. "The world forgets me, or is forgetting intentional?" Sang the Armenian soloist. "It increases the hate in me. I am the child of proud people... I am a child without childhood, the orphan of this century." Armenians and Palestinians applauded loudly for this common pain they all feel.

Then, "On a sad note I shed two tears," sings the choir. "We will sing till the dawn brightens the morning sun. We will say words that will heal the injury. We will sing until the tyrants fall. There will be no silence after today."

This October concert proved to be a major artistic and nationalist success. It is surely to be followed with even more memorable performances. The choir and band are currently working on an entirely patriotic performance scheduled for November 25 at *El-Hakawati*, and are putting together a musical play with the help of *El-Hakawati* actors to be given sometime next summer. With the quality of their first concert so firmly set in the audience's memory, their future performances may all be sold out and suffer from more listeners than any local hall can handle.

Regardless of any shortage of concert space, Bishara expects the groups to keep performing in an effort to keep the Palestinian song ever before the people. "When the singer is silent the reasons for his existence die," sang the choir. "We will sing and sing and will join you in a beautiful meeting."

WEEKLY REVIEW

October 31, 1984

CONDEMNATION OF ASSAULTS ON REFUGEE CAMPS

The Committee for Defending Refugee Camps condemned the recurring assaults on the Palestinian people in refugee camps in the West Bank.

The Committee accused Israeli elements of preparing to expel the Palestinian refugees from their homes in order to liquidate their cause.

YOUTH IMPRISONED

NABLUS — Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced a youth from Dhahriyeh near Hebron to 18 months in prison on charges of throwing stones at Israeli vehicles.

5 JERICHO YOUTH SENTENCED

JERICHO — Five youth from Jericho were sentenced by the military court in Nablus to prison terms and fines on charges of throwing stones at Israeli army vehicles on Land Day March 30. The youths are Mahmoud Nimr Abu Shusheh; Imad Ali Zaloum; Mohammed Badawi; Roubin Saleh and Ahmad Hamad.

STUDENT IMPRISONED

DHAHRIYEH — The military court in Nablus sentenced student Nasser Abd al-Halim, 16, from the village of Dhahriyeh near Hebron to one-and-a-half years in prison and one-and-a-half years suspended on charges of raising the Palestinian flag and throwing stones at Israeli vehicles.

November 1, 1984

STUDENT IMPRISONED

NABLUS — The Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced student Hamed Na'man, 14, from Jalazon refugee camp to 45 days in prison on charges of throwing stones at Israeli army vehicles.

JERUSALEMITE RELEASED

JERUSALEM — Zakariya Ibrahim Kashur, 27, of Jerusalem was released from detention after serving a five-year prison term on charges of membership in an illegal organisation.

of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) have pleaded guilty to participating in an armed attack last April 2 in downtown West Jerusalem according to Israeli military authorities.

The sources said the military court rejected a plea by defence council to grant the two defendants prisoner-of-war status.

Sentence will be handed down at a later date.

REQUEST FOR BUILDING NEW HOSPITAL

HEBRON — The Friends of the Patient Society in Hebron has asked authorities for permission to build a new hospital in the town.

The society sent telegrammes in this regard to the Israeli defence minister, the coordinator of Israeli government activities in the occupied territories and the head of the 'civil administration.'

JNAID PRISONERS THREATEN TO RENEW HUNGER STRIKE

NABLUS — Palestinian political detainees in Jnaid prison in Nablus have threatened to renew their hunger strike if authorities do not take immediate measures to improve their conditions and meet their demands.

Electric Company Employees' Union book exhibit/AO photo

JENIN DEPUTY MAYOR RELEASED

JENIN — Ibrahim Nasser, deputy mayor of Jenin, was released after a two-month detention on suspicion of receiving bribes.

TEACHER RELEASED

BETHLEHEM — Israeli authorities released Ne'mah al-Khawaja of Bethlehem after serving a one-year prison term on charges of membership in an illegal organisation.

CAR TORCHED IN BEIT SAHOUR

BEIT SAHOUR — Unidentified persons set fire to the car of Fayez Hanna Qumseiyeh in Beit Sahour. The car was completely destroyed and police are investigating.

GAZA MAN MURDERED

GAZA — Gaza police are investigating the murder of 27-year-old Munir Ahmad al-Shandagli from the village of Nazlah whose body was found two days ago.

COMMANDOS CONVICTED FOR JERUSALEM SHOOTING

JERUSALEM — Two members

EXHIBITIONS CLOSED IN NABLUS

NABLUS — Several exhibitions in Nablus have been closed in the last few days because of the severe economic crisis and because Israeli firms are now demanding payment for merchandise in US dollars or Jordanian dinars.

LAND CONFISCATED

GAZA — Israeli military authorities in the Gaza Strip have notified the owners of land located between the two settlements of Erez (A) and Erez (B) of their decision to confiscate the land. The confiscated land is estimated at 1500 dunums.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL DAY

AL-EZAH — A voluntary medical day was held in al-Ezah refugee camp near Bethlehem at the initiative of the Juvenile Committee for Social Work.

Several patients were examined and given free medicine during the day by a staff of doctors and nurses.

November 2, 1984

GRENADE MISSES PATROL, WOUNDS 2

GAZA — A hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli army patrol in Gaza. Abd al-Khamis Subaih, 14, and Ibtisam Mohammed Risheh, 13, were wounded in the explosion and taken to hospital for treatment. Israeli forces detained several youth at the scene.

PETROL BOMBS IN BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM — Two petrol bombs were thrown at a sports shop in Bethlehem owned by Mayor Elias Freij's son, the second incident of its kind in 24 hours.

Eyewitnesses said two masked men were seen running away from the scene. Police are investigating.

COURT REJECTS APPEAL AGAINST LIFE SENTENCE

LYDDA — The Israeli military court in Lydda has turned down the appeal of Asa'ad Mohammed Shi'awi and three other men against the life imprisonment they were sentenced to on charges of abducting an Israeli soldier and attempting to assassinate him.

NABLUS YOUTH IMPRISONED

NABLUS — The Israeli military court in Jenin sentenced Alam Mohammed Baradis of Nablus to seven months in prison on charges of membership in an illegal organisation.

AUTHORITIES PERMIT OLIVE AND OIL EXPORT

Israeli authorities have decided to allow the export of olives and olive oil from the West Bank to Jordan.

November 4, 1984

ROCKETS FIRED AT ISRAEL FROM JORDAN

BEISAN — Israeli troops found remnants of two Katyusha rockets fired into the Beisan valley from Jordan overnight, apparently by Palestinians, Israeli military sources said.

The remains of the 107mm rockets were found in fields in the eastern valley which borders Jordan.

BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY OPENS

BETHLEHEM — Studies resumed at Bethlehem University which was closed down by the authorities for four days after student demonstrations and protests against the rocket attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem last week.

HAND GRENADE IN GAZA

GAZA — A hand grenade was thrown into the central market of Gaza wounding six Arabs.

The attack took place at 11:00 am in the market on Omar al-Mukhtar Street, the city's main thoroughfare.

Israeli sources say the grenade was apparently thrown at an Israeli car parked on the street.

The wounded were taken to hospital suffering slight injuries.

GAZA YOUTHS IMPRISONED

GAZA — The Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced three youths to various prison terms on charges of illegal possession of weapons.

The youths are: Taysir Awaymeh, 23, three years in prison; Ishaw Awaymeh, 24, five years in prison; Sarid Darbaj, 26, two-and-a-half years in prison and Ahmad Ghanam, 21, three years in prison.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROTESTS PROVOCATIVE PRACTICES

JERUSALEM — The Arab Chamber of Commerce in Jerusalem sent a telegramme to the director of the Israeli income tax authority protesting against provocative practices of tax officials against Jerusalem merchants.

YOUTH WOUNDED IN BOMB EXPLOSION

GAZA — Khaled Mahmoud Ruck, of the Khaza'a village in the Gaza Strip, was critically injured when a bomb he found in a nearby field exploded in his hands.

He was taken to Khan Yunis Hospital for treatment.

AUTHORITIES SAY 9000 FAMILIES RESETTLED

GAZA — Israeli authorities in the Gaza Strip claim that more than 9000 Palestinian families from refugee camps in the Strip have been resettled since the 1967 war.

GAZA MAN JAILED FOR DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS

GAZA — Adnan Fadel Kadih, a resident of Gaza, was sentenced by the Israeli military court to six months imprisonment and six months suspended on charges of distributing leaflets.

FAMILIES APPEAL EVICTION NOTICE

JABALYA — Six families from Jabalya refugee camp near Gaza have appealed to the Israeli High Court requesting cancellation of eviction orders received by the families.

TWO JALAZON MEN JAILED, FINED

JALAZON — The Nablus military court sentenced Mahmoud Nahleh and Ismail Abu Kweik, both from Jalazon refugee camp near Ramallah, to three months in prison, three months suspended and a fine of IS25,000 on charges of throwing stones at Israeli vehicles.

November 5, 1984

PETROL BOMBS IN RAMALLAH

RAMALLAH — A petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli car in the centre of Ramallah, the second incident of its kind in one week. Israeli troops threw a cordon around the area and detained a number of suspects.

Another petrol bomb was thrown at the Israeli Interior Ministry offices in Ramallah. The bomb caused a fire in the offices, and heavily damaged the ground floor.

35 ARAB WORKERS ARRESTED IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV — Israeli police arrested 35 Arab workers from the Gaza Strip who were sleeping at their place of work in Tel Aviv. Residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are forbidden to stay overnight in Israel without prior permission from military authorities.

13-YEAR-OLD SENTENCED

NABLUS — The Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced 13-year-old Mohammed Rafik Abu Shamleh of Jenin to three months suspended plus a IS10,000 fine on charges of demonstrating and stone throwing.

21 YOUTHS REMANDED

TAMRAH — Twenty-one young men from the Galilee village of Tamrah were ordered remanded into police custody by the magistrates court in Acre on charges of throwing stones at Israeli policemen in the village during the council elections last Tuesday.

UNRWA OFFICIAL VISITS DHEISHEH CAMP

DHEISHEH — The director-general of UNRWA in the West Bank visited Dheisheh camp and met with camp representatives.

Bethlehem University employee Majed Nimr, shot during November 2 (Balfour Day) demonstrations/MN photo

UM AL-FAHM LAWYER PROTESTS TREATMENT AT AIRPORT

UM AL-FAHM — Advocate Hussein Abu Hussein of Um al-Fahm sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres protesting his treatment at Ben Gurion Airport by Israeli security men.

Hussein said his personal papers and client's files were confiscated at the airport by security men upon his return from France where he attended an international conference for jurists.

MUSMUS RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH PLO CHANTS AND SONGS

MUSMUS — Mahmoud Ahmad Ighbariyeh and Ahmad Sa'id Ighbariyeh, both from the village of Musmus near Um al-Fahm, were charged in the magistrates court in Hadera with chanting PLO slogans and singing PLO songs on the anniversary of Land Day.

November 6, 1984

RESTRICTIONS ON RESIDENCY OF JERUSALEMITES

JERUSALEM — The Israeli interior ministry is currently examining the residency of East Jerusalemites who carry Israeli ID cards in an attempt to change their place of residence from East Jerusalem to the West Bank, informed sources said.

The sources told *Al Fajr* that the authorities were planning to replace the Israeli IDs with West Bank IDs on the pretext that the residents are living outside Jerusalem.

CONNECTING COLONIES

NABLUS — The Israeli authorities completed paving a new road linking the settlement of Ephraim with the settlement of Elon Moreh in the Nablus area.

UNRWA VISITS SHU'FAT CAMP

JERUSALEM — Representatives of Shu'fat camp near Jerusalem met last week with Husni Shahwan, a senior UNRWA official, and provided him with a list of demands for improving conditions in the camp.

IMPRISONED FOR STONE-THROWING

HEBRON — Nasser Abu Ayyash and Faleh Mousa Arar, both from the village of Beit Amer in the Hebron district, were sentenced by the Nablus military court to three months and four months in prison respectively on charges of stone-throwing.

BETHLEHEM STUDENTS OFFER CONDOLENCES IN SA'IR

BETHLEHEM — Studies were suspended at Bethlehem University as dozens of students travelled to the village of Sa'ir near Hebron to offer condolences to the family of 22-year-old Jamal al-Matwar, killed in the rocket attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem last week.

See No Evil

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and addresses, they left and I went into Kisheleh on my own. I was told that there weren't any border policemen attached to the station and that I ought to go to the Russian Compound (the headquarters of the Jerusalem police) and that they would find out who it was. I told them that I wasn't going to give up until I had gotten the names of the policemen and they told me to try the Temple Mount Station.

"At the Temple Mount Police Station I was told they couldn't have been any of the men assigned to the station. 'You should try the Allenby Station,' they said. In the meantime, a group of observant Jews had gathered in the station. Yom Kippur had drawn to a close and their righteousness had been vouchsafed by the Almighty. The time had come to break their fast, and they had brought the police a cake for this purpose. Their aggression broke out as they turned on me and began ranting: 'What are you — a journalist? What's your problem? You just want to hand the state over to the Arabs! You're probably a new immigrant — you don't have a clue as to what's going on in this country. The Arabs deserve to die. When did you arrive here anyway?'

"At this point I got a bit carried away. I told them that my father had been one of the founders of the state. I asked them how they could remain insensitive to such incidents — and on Yom Kippur, no less! I thought that it would shake them up, but their response was: 'That's the way all the Arabs should be dealt with. That's the only way we're ever going to have any peace and quiet in this country.'

"I left. Discussion was obviously impossible. I went home, had a quick bite and drove over to the Allenby Base. I asked to see the officer on duty but it turned out that he was having dinner. And so I waited and waited and waited some more. Finally I went over to the front desk. It turned out that the two American women had already been there and filed a complaint. I did so as well. A border policeman, who had listened to my story, told me that he'd been in the force for a year-and-a-half and had never hit anyone without cause. And mind you, he supposedly condemned the beating I had witnessed. Anyway, the officer on duty took down my name, address and telephone number. He promised to check out my complaint and said that I was probably thinking it would not even be investigated or that nothing would come of it in the end. He tried to reassure me. 'We'll check it out,' he said.

"In any case I have his platoon number and the name of both his commanding officer and deputy commanding officer. Now I'm waiting to see what happens next."

That's Shai's story. I really don't know what to do with it. Should I have told it to the Minister of Police? Or to the Chief Rabbis? Should I have read it aloud to the leaders of the religious parties? Or should I have sent it to *Beni Akiva* (a religious youth movement)? The picture that emerges from Shai's story is far from flattering. How many people are prepared to even listen?

Shai has already drawn his own conclusions. For him, Yom Kippur — as he has experienced it up to now — will never be the same again. "I don't want to have anything to do with them," said Shai. If those who reviled him were observant Jews, then he would prefer not to be a Jew. Or vice versa. He can't stomach the hypocrisy of repenting before God and condoning brutality two minutes later. As far as Shai is concerned, he's finished with all that.

And as regards the two policemen, so far, nothing has happened. (Translation: Yediot Aharonot, October 23, 1984)

Israel Not Up to Par

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fatal; and 55 percent of the dead and wounded were caused by small arms' fire, versus 53 percent of similar US troop casualties in Vietnam. The casualty list would have been 20 percent higher had Israeli troops not worn protective vests. The artillery casualty rate was relatively low for Israel until they had to face the combined PLO-Syrian forces in the battle of the Beirut-Damascus highway.

"The highest number of artillery casualties was produced in combat during the siege of Beirut where the PLO utilised its own artillery effectively against Israeli forces," with massive use of Katyusha fire. The author concludes that Israeli medical teams functioned very effectively and so did combat engineers. Logistically speaking Gabriel writes, the Israelis were also effective in using "the Soviet Push model" rather than the "US Pull model." In the Soviet model, supplies are delivered to the field at a regularly set time, while in the US model, supplies are sent when a request is received.

Major Gabriel concludes that Israel paid a high price in the Lebanon war: "The human losses sustained were very high indeed for such a small nation." When the actual fighting ended, Israel had suffered 368 dead and 2,383 wounded, and for such an operation this is indeed high.

Equipment loss was also high; 140 tanks, M60 and centurions were hit but only a few of the Israeli-made *Merkavas*. This is in addition to another 135 APCs which were damaged. "Israeli officers suffered a terribly high burden of dead and wounded," wrote Gabriel. Twenty-six percent of the total casualty list or 97 were officers which means that officers suffered three times more casualties than their total number within the combat troops. Broken down the casualty list is: "49 privates, 90 corporals, 132 sergeants, 46 lieutenants, 28 captains, 10 majors, two lieutenant colonels, one colonel and one major general." From among the army's leadership elements, the author concluded, the casualty rate was 62 percent of the soldiers who died.

Of particular interest was the number of troops who were afflicted with what is known as psychological casualty. Gabriel quotes Dr Ron Levy, head of the Israeli army's Psychological Research Unit, as noting that 10 percent of the soldiers who fought in Lebanon "suffered some type of battle reaction ranging from fatigue to paralysis." Other sources, Major Gabriel was told, "put the rate at 24 percent." In the 1973 war the rate of psychological casualties was between 3.5 percent and five percent or twice to three times less than the 1982 war in Lebanon. The psychological casualty rate for the German army in the second world war was 2.6 percent and for the United States in Vietnam was 12 percent.

In conclusion, Gabriel argues that the Israelis deployed almost twice the number of "enemy" or Syrian, PLO and allied forces — this in addition to their use of modern weaponry and training. "The final outcome of the Israeli-PLO war ought not obscure the fact that this was a military operation in which the Israeli forces performed somewhat less brilliantly," wrote Gabriel, "than expected and certainly less effectively than in their other wars."

The agriculturally-rich West Bank now imports from Israel twice as much food as it exports — not by choice. Israeli military orders and regulations have been designed to make the Palestinian economy subservient to the economy of the occupier. Awad Abdel Fattah looks at current research and popular comment.

Exporters Turned Consumers: Israel Force-Feeds the Occupied Territories

The Palestinian economy in the occupied territories has, through Israeli military orders restricting local production and export, been transformed into a consumer economy. Rate of imports now far outstrips exports and the gap widens every year even for agricultural produce in the once agricultural-rich West Bank. Ninety percent of these imports are force-fed from Israel.

Research conducted by various institutions and individuals on the Palestinian economy under occupation, show that the occupied territories have become net importers, totally dependent on a foreign economy. According to a study prepared by ECWA, the UN Economic Commission for Western Asia, from 1969 to 1979 there was a growing surplus of imports over exports and an ever-widening imbalance in trade. Total imports increased, in real terms, 309 percent during the 10-year period.In a study of agriculture and water in the occupied territories (West Bank Data Base Project, 1983), Israeli researcher David Kahan noted that Israeli exports to the West Bank and Gaza Strip have grown over the years to become an important element in Israel's overall export situation. He indicates that in 1980 the total volume of agricultural exports from Israel was IS298.5 million to the West Bank and IS162.8 million to Gaza Strip. The agriculturally-based economies of the occupied territories bought from Israel more than twice the amount of agricultural produce that it sold.

According to the UN report total exports from the occupied territories to Israel do not exceed on average more than one-third of the total imports from Israel. "This surplus of imports over exports has created a trade deficit in the balance of payments, not only for trade with Israel but also in their whole economy," the report says.

During the last five years 90 percent of all imports by the territories have been from Israel. In real terms Israeli imports increased by 340 percent compared to only a 21 percent increase in imports from Jordan for the same period. Manufactured products constitute more than 80 percent of all imports into the occupied territories and 85 percent of all imports from Israel.

Jordanian imports declined substantially over the years in real terms. They consist mainly of processed food products, paper, textiles, cotton and dairy products. Agricultural products such as fruit pulp used in plastic production and seeds accounted for only 9.3 percent of total Jordanian imports in 1979/80. "The reduction in trade is hardly surprising," David Kahan explains, "because Jordanian goods are subject to a [stiff] Israeli tariff on entry to the West Bank."

Israel's forced substitution of imports from Jordan and overseas with its own imports after 1967 led to a three-fold increase and almost total Israeli domination of imports — 90 percent — by as early as 1973. Some 83 percent of these imports are industrial goods. About two-thirds of agricultural and manufactured imports are sent to the West Bank; the remainder are exported to the Gaza Strip.

Most of these imports are consumer items; only a small portion represents raw materials for domestic production. Manufactured imports include basic commodities such as processed sugar, flour, rice, sweets, textiles, cars and electrical appliances. Agricultural imports consist of wheat, barley, pulp, melons, tomatoes and cucumbers (mainly to Gaza which before its occupation by Israel in 1967 imported most of its agricultural needs from Egypt's Nile Delta).

Processing cement. Israel completely forbids Palestinians from importing certain commodities from abroad, including cement and reinforcing iron, staples in the Palestinian building industry: *A deficit not only in trade but in the whole economy.*

Overseas trade is not substantial. It accounts for only 10 percent of the occupied territories total trade. Direct imports from overseas distributors consist mainly of basic foodstuffs such as flour, oil and sugar between IL25 million and 30 million per annum. Kahan's research shows that from 1968 to 1970 the level of these imports remained stable, around IL25 million per year, down from the pre-war figure of IL70 million in 1966. In 1971 and 1972 it increased, reaching IL55 million, in later years. The volume of imports by foreign institutions located in the occupied territories remained constant in the course of three years (about IL1 million mainly in basic foodstuffs) says Kahane, "but the share of private importers increased rapidly from year to year as a result of the rise in domestic production which entailed a more intensive use of production factors."

Before 1967 grain was produced locally for domestic consumption,mostly by the rural population, but in rain-short years the West Bank could not cover its own requirements. In 1965, for example, imports amounted to JD2 million. Supplementary imports of meat, milk, fish and eggs totalled about JD1 million in the same year; other foodstuffs not produced in the West Bank were also imported.

Occupation Kills Direct Imports

Under Israeli occupation, direct foreign imports by the occupied territories suffered a sharp drop almost to 12 percent. Most of the import companies which operated before 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were forced to close in the first few years of the occupation. Private importers either stopped their work or became transfer importers or mere merchants dealing with Israeli traders.

Abdel Rahman al-Ghalayeeni, who was a partner in one of the largest import companies in Gaza until shortly after the '67 war, is now owner of a small tire store. He used to import sugar, rice, wood and other consumer commodities in large quantities through Egypt from Western Europe. "In contrast to Israeli restrictions on imports the Egyptian government provided excellent import facilities for us," al-Ghalayeeni remarked.

Among restrictions imposed by Israel on the import market are exorbitant taxes: 2.5 percent for port fees (shipment tax), two percent Lebanon war tax, 15 percent value-added tax, 25 percent customs tax and five percent purchase tax.

In addition, Israel forbids Palestinian importers from importing certain commodities from abroad; for example, cement and reinforcing iron must be bought from Israel. Palestinian clearing companies are not allowed to enter Israeli ports — allegedly for 'security' reasons. Customs clearance can only be done by Israeli companies. This means that cargo must pass through two more channels before it arrives in the hands of the Palestinian merchant, a time-consuming process.

A few importers who maintain direct contacts with foreign production companies abroad have remained, helped by their better financial capabilities. But they too are subject to the heavy Israeli taxes. Two months ago, a new order was declared by the Israeli authorities forcing direct importers to pay the same taxes as Palestinian middlemen importers.

According to one Palestinian merchant, most goods are imported by Palestinian factory or workshop owners for the purpose of manufacturing or selling them. "There is a very limited number of importers who work as mere importers," he said. Most of the big merchants or import agents have become small-time due to the restrictions imposed by Israel and the instability in the Israeli currency. Now they deal with Israeli agents who bring the goods directly to their stores in the West Bank. An owner of a dress and cloth shop in the Old City of Jerusalem told *Al Fajr* that his capital has been dwindling and that he can't afford to import directly from abroad as he did before 1967. He also stopped dealing with Israeli import offices shortly after he started, due to the difficult conditions. "The Israelis," he explained, "ask me to pay the whole sum in advance in hard currency even though I do not receive the goods until a month later, this is in addition to the taxes." He recalls that he used to pay the import office in Amman only six percent of the total cost before 1967. Deals were made by telephone, and within 20 days the goods would be in his store.

Ragheb al-Murtaja, the chairman of the chamber of commerce in Gaza, told *Al Fajr* that the flow of imports and trade in general in the city has been almost paralysed, especially after the latest decision of the Israeli government to boost its own products by preventing the import of more than 50 foreign commodities. "This," he explained, "springs from the deterioration of the Israeli economy, the instability of the Israeli currency which has direct effects on us, as well as the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities." He said that they have asked Israeli authorities to provide facilities for Palestinian importers but never received an answer.

Israel's exclusive and complete control over the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in view of the deterioration of the Israeli economy,

"DURING THE LAST 5 YEARS, 90 PERCENT OF ALL IMPORTS BY THE TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN FROM ISRAEL."

has hard hit Palestinians in the occupied territories. The occupied territories, deprived of political and economic independence, have no opportunity to use traditional policy instruments such as tariffs or exchange rate controls. They are forced to adhere to a fiscal and monetary policy designed to satisfy the needs of a foreign economy. At the same time the Palestinians suffer the unbuffered effects of the deterioration of the Israeli economy and constant currency devaluation. By being forced to buy Israeli products or overseas products imported through Israel, to meet its needs, Palestinians in the territories are also subject to the effects of Israeli external tariffs.

Samir Hazboun, a lecturer in economics at Bir Zeit University, elaborated on this point. When goods traded do not originate in Israel, he said, but are transferred overseas commodities, the Palestinian consumer bears the cost in the form of duty which Israel levies on the entry of foreign commodities, "of course," he pointed out, "since duty is usually levied on some of these imports in any circumstances, there is only a cost to the economy as a whole, insofar as this fiscal burden is not matched by corresponding expenditure in the territories."